AN INQUIRY INTO THE MEANING OF LIFE

Session: Spring/Summer 2012
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Room:

Professor: Charles LePage, PhD
Tel.: 613-773-5551
elepave@ustpaul.ca

OFFICE: ROOM XXX, LAFRAMBOISE HALL
OFFICE HOURS: TBD

Course Code
PHI 2311B

Course Description
This course is designed to elucidate the challenges involved in undertaking an inquiry into the meaning of life. Topics include, but are not limited to, issues/questions regarding the meaning of life, the nature of reality, the existence of God, fate versus freedom, the role of suffering and our mortal condition. Classes will involve a mixture of lectures and open discussion.

Learning Outcomes
• Identify and seek solutions to questions/problems regarding the meaning of life;
• Recognize the nature of philosophical inquiry and discuss its place in culture, science and theology;
• Identify key concepts in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, philosophy of religion, existentialism and theodicy;
• Apply these concepts to an inquiry into the meaning of life;
• Evaluate answers to classic questions that philosophers have raised throughout the ages;
• Develop a refined and more subtle appreciation of the breadth and depth of philosophical inquiry into the meaning of life; and
• Defend your own position with respect to undertaking an inquiry into the meaning of life in the contemporary world.

Grading
25% 1st Assignment
25% 2nd Assignment
50% Final Essay

Texts
Viktor Frankl, Man’s Search for Meaning.