

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Philosophy 313 Lec 02 (Web Course)**  
**“Bioethics”**  
**Fall 2008**

**Instructor:** Dr. Reid Buchanan  
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**REQUIRED TEXT**

- Steinbock, Arras, London (eds.), *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, McGraw-Hill, 2008.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course is an introduction to Bioethics—the study of ethical issues related to health care. We will examine a number of specific issues, including abortion, euthanasia and physician assisted suicide, and models of the physician/patient relationship. The ethical status of most of these issues is hotly-contested (in both academic and non-academic arenas), and so the general aim of the course is to provide students with the analytical and critical abilities to clarify the moral and non-moral dimensions of these issues with a view to assessing their moral status in an informed and responsible manner.

**FORMAT**

This is an online web course. There will be no in-person lectures. See the document entitled “Format” in the Course Content page.

**COURSE WORK AND EVALUATION**

The course work will consist of three “essay” type assignments. You will be asked to complete two essay questions (approximately 3 double-spaced typed pages for each question is expected) for assignment one and one essay question (approximately 6-8 double-spaced typed pages) for assignments 2 and 3. Assignments are to be e-mailed to me in **Word or RTF format** by midnight of the due date. There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

**LATE POLICY**

Written assignments are expected to be submitted on time. A 5% per day penalty will be given to assignments handed in late. If you feel you will not be able to hand an assignment in on time, please contact me **before** the due date with an acceptable explanation and we can make alternate arrangements. The weight for each requirement is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>% of Course Grade</u>	<u>Date</u>
Assignment 1	30	Friday, October 10
Assignment 2	35	Friday, November 14
Assignment 3	35	Friday, December 5

## ASSIGNMENT OF LETTER GRADES

Letter grades will be assigned in accordance with the following scale:

0-45	F	71-75	B-
46-50	D	76-80	B
51-55	D+	80-85	B+
56-60	C-	86-90	A-
61-65	C	91-95	A
66-70	C+	96-100	A+

### **INTELLECTUAL HONESTY**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE**

The Humanities Representative is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, [humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca) or 220-3913.