



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 313 Lec 01 – “Bioethics”

Fall Term 2010

### Course Outline

Lectures: MW 1600-1715 in SS 113

**Instructor: Walter Glannon**  
**Office: SS 1226**  
**Phone: 403-220-3171**  
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**Office Hours: T 1330-1530**

### ***Course Description***

This course addresses the main ethical positions and arguments in six areas of biomedicine: the Patient-Doctor Relationship; Medical Research on Humans; Reproductive Rights and Technologies; Genetics; Medical Decisions at the End of Life; and the Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources. The aim of the course is to show that debates in bioethics and medical ethics can be conducted and resolved in more than one reasonable way.

### ***Required Texts***

- *Bioethics: An Anthology*, second edition, Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer, eds. Blackwell, 2006.
- *Biomedical Ethics*, Walter Glannon, Oxford University Press, 2005.
- *Choosing Children*, Jonathan Glover, Oxford University Press, 2006.

### ***Evaluation***

- 2 papers, 5-6 pages for each, 1<sup>st</sup> paper due October 6; 2<sup>nd</sup> paper due November 24.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> paper: 30%
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> paper: 35%Papers must be submitted in class (or by other means with permission from the instructor). Since proper grammar and syntax are necessary to write clearly, these will be factors in the evaluation of papers.
- Registrar-scheduled Final Exam (two hours, texts allowed): 25%
- Class participation: 10% (based on brief presentations and summaries of readings)

### ***Grading Method***

95-100 = A+	78-80 = B+	68-70 = C+	58-60 = D+
85-94 = A	75-77 = B	65-67 = C	50-57 = D
81-84 = A-	71-74 = B-	61-64 = C-	< 50 = F

### ***Late Submission of Papers***

Papers submitted later than the due date will lose one-half letter grade for each day beyond that date. Students with medical or other extenuating reasons for not submitting a paper on the due date will not be penalized, provided that they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances.

### **Schedule**

**September 13, 15:** Introduction (History: past, present, and future prominent issues in bioethics; Ethical Theories and Bioethical Principles). Readings: Kuhse and Singer (K+S), "Introduction;" Glannon, Chapter 1.

**September 20:** Patient-Doctor Relationship. Readings: Kant, "On a Supposed Right to Lie from Altruistic Motives," 603-604 in K+S; Collins, "Should Doctors Tell the Truth?," 605-610 in K+S; Higgs, "On Telling Patients the Truth," 611-617 in K+S; Mill, "On Liberty," 621-623 in K+S; Veatch, "Abandoning Informed Consent," 636-645 in K+S; Macklin, "The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures," 664-675 in K+S; Glannon, Chapter 2.

**September 22:** no class (lecturer presenting at a conference in Toronto)

**September 27, 29:** Patient-Doctor Relationship. Film: "Decalogue II" September 29.

**October 4:** Patient-Doctor Relationship

**October 6:** Medical Research on Humans: Readings: Beecher, "Ethics and Clinical Research," 505-512 in K+S; Freedman, "Equipose and the Ethics of Clinical Research," 513-519 in K+S, Tannsjo, "The Morality of Clinical Research: A Case Study," 525-532 in K+S; Lurie and Wolf, "Unethical Trials of Interventions to Reduce Perinatal Transmission of HIV in Developing Countries," 533-538 in K+S; Harris, "Scientific Research is a Moral Duty" JME 2005;31: 242-8; Glannon, Chapter 3. **First Paper Due, October 6.**

**October 11:** no class (Thanksgiving)

**October 13:** Medical Research on Humans

**October 18:** Medical Research on Humans. Film: "Extreme Measures"

**October 20:** Reproductive Rights and Technologies: Readings: Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," 40-50 in K+S; Marquis, "Why Abortion Is Immoral," 51-62 in K+S; Parfit, "Rights, Interests, and Possible People," 108-112 in K+S; Purdy, "Genetics and Reproductive Risk: Can Having Children Be Immoral?" 115-121 in K+S; Asch, "Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortion," 122-136; Savulescu, "Sex Selection: The Case For," 145-149; Glannon, Chapter 4.

**October 25, 27:** Reproductive Rights and Technologies

**November 1-3:** Genetics: Readings: Glover, "Questions about Some Uses of Genetic Engineering," 187-197 in K+S; Glover, *Choosing Children*, Davis, "Genetic Dilemmas and the Child's Right to an Open Future," 246-256 in K+S; Glover, *Choosing Children*, Glannon, Chapter 5.

**November 8-10:** Genetics, Glover, *Choosing Children*

**November 15, 17:** Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Readings: Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia," 288-291; Kuhse, "Why Killing Is not Always Worse—and Sometimes Better—Than Letting Die," 297-300 in K+S; Hare, "The Abnormal Child: Moral Dilemmas of Doctors and Parents," 329-333 in K+S; Davis, "Right to Life of Handicapped," 334-335 in K+S; Callahan, "When Self-Determination Runs Amok," 381-385 in K+S; Glannon, Chapter 6.

**November 22, 24:** Medical Decisions at the End of Life. Film: "The Sea Inside," November 24.  
**Second Paper Due, November 24.**

**November 29-December 1:** Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources: Readings: Menzel, "Rescuing Lives: Can't We Count?", 407-409 in K+S; Moss and Siegler, "Should Alcoholics Compete Equally for Liver Transplantation?", 421-427 in K+S; Harris, "The Value of Life," 428-436 in K+S; Veatch, "How Age Should Matter," 437-447 in K+S; Lockwood, "Quality of Life and Resource Allocation," 451-464 in K+S; Daniels, "A Lifespan Approach to Health Care," 465-474; Glannon, Chapter 7.

**December 6, 8:** Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources. The Future of Biomedical Ethics

**Registrar-scheduled final examination during exam period.**

## **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 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, 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 REPRESENTATIVES**

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski ([arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan ([arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)), Lara Schmitz ([arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)), and Vincent St. Pierre ([arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)).

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

## **SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS**

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).