



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 313 Lec 01 – “Bioethics”

Fall Term 2011

### Course Outline

**Lectures:** MW 16:00-17:15 ES 443

**Instructor:** Walter Glannon

**Office:** SS 1226

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**Email:** [wglannon@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wglannon@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 13:30-15:30

### ***Course Description***

This course addresses the main ethical positions and arguments in six areas of biomedicine: the patient-doctor relationship; medical research involving 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 and disagreements 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***

3 papers, 5 double-spaced pages.

First paper due in class Wednesday October 12= 30 percent

Second paper due in class Wednesday November 16= 30 percent

Third paper due in class Wednesday December 7= 30 percent

(Because proper grammar and syntax are necessary to write clearly, these will be factors in the evaluation of papers.)

Class participation based on attendance and a brief presentation= 10 percent

### ***Grading Method***

98-100 = A+

86-89 = B+

74-77 = C+

62-65 = D+

94-97 = A

82-85 = B

70-73 = C

58-61 = D

90-93 = A-

78-81 = B-

66-69 = C-

< 57 = F

### ***Policy on Late Assignments***

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 if they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances.

## SCHEDULE

**September 12, 14:** Introduction: past, present, and future prominent issues in bioethics; ethical theories and bioethical principles. Readings: Kuhse and Singer (K&S), *Bioethics*, "Introduction;" Glannon, *Biomedical Ethics*, Chapter 1.

**September 19, 21:** 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, Glannon, Chapter 2

**September 26, 28:** Patient-Doctor Relationship: Readings: Veatch, "Abandoning Informed Consent," 636-645 in K+S; Macklin, "The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures," 664-675 in K&S.

**October 3, 5:** Patient-Doctor Relationship. Medical Research Involving Humans: Readings: Beecher, "Ethics and Clinical Research," 505-512 in K&S, Freedman, "Equipoise 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; Glannon, Chapter 3.

**October 12:** Medical Research Involving Humans: Readings: Harris, "Scientific Research Is a Moral Duty (2005) PDF on Blackboard; Schaefer et al., "The Obligation to Participate in Biomedical Research" (2009), PDF on Blackboard; Baylis, "Pregnant Women Deserve Better (2010) PDF on Blackboard. **First Paper due Wednesday October 12.**

**October 17, 19:** Medical Research Involving Humans. Film: "Extreme Measures."

**October 24, 26:** 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; Glannon, Chapter 4.

**October 31:** Lecture by Professor F. Mortier, University of Ghent (Belgium) on Terminal Sedation. PDF on Blackboard.

**November 2:** Reproductive Rights and Technologies: Readings: 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 in K&S; Savulescu, "Sex Selection: The Case For," 145-149 in K&S.

**November 7, 9:** Genetics: Readings: Glover, "Questions about Some Uses of Genetic Engineering," 187-197 in K&S; Davis, "Genetic Dilemmas and the Child's Right to an Open Future," 246-256 in K&S; Glover, *Choosing Children*; Glannon, Chapter 5.

**November 14, 16:** Genetics: Readings: Glover, *Choosing Children*. Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Readings: Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia," 288-291 in K&S; Kuhse, "Why Killing Is not Always Worse—and Sometimes Better—than Letting Die," 297-300 in K&S; **Second Paper due Wednesday November 16.**

**November 21, 23:** Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Readings: Callahan, "When Self-Determination Runs Amok," 381-385 in K&S; Film: "The Sea Inside;" Film: "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

**November 28, 30:** Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources: Readings: Menzel, "Rescuing Lives: Can 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 Should Age Matter?" 437-447 in K&S; Daniels, "A Lifespan Approach to Health Care," 465-474 in K&S; Glannon, Chapter 7.

**December 5, 7:** Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources. **Third paper due Wednesday December 7.**

## **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.

## **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).