



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 313 Lec 01 – “Bioethics”**

**Fall Term 2013**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** MW 15:30-16:45 ST 128

**Instructor:** Walter Glannon

**Office:** SS 1226

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

***Course Description***

This course addresses the main ethical positions and arguments in six areas of biotechnology and medicine: 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 engage students in critically reflecting on how these issues positively and negatively affect people’s lives. It also aims 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)

Course Pack (at Bound and Copied)

***Evaluation***

Quiz Wednesday September 18= 10 percent

First paper (5-6 double-spaced pages) due in class Wednesday October 16= 35 percent

Second paper (5-6 double-spaced pages) due in class Wednesday November 20= 45 percent

Quiz Wednesday December 4= 10 percent

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course.

There is NO Registrar-scheduled final exam.

***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 9, 11:** 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 16, 18:** 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. **Quiz September 18**

**September 23, 25:** Patient-Doctor Relationship: Readings: Brody, “The Lie that Heals,” in Course Pack; Walton, “Is it Ethical for Doctors to Prescribe Placebos?” in Course Pack, Economist, “The Placebo Effect: Great Expectations,” in Course Pack; Macklin, “The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures,” 664-675 in K&S.

**September 30, October 2:** 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; Tannsjö, “The Morality of Clinical Research: a Case Study,” 525-532 in K&S; Glannon, Chapter 3.

**October 7, 9:** Medical Research Involving Humans: Readings: Harris, “Scientific Research Is a Moral Duty,” in Course Pack; Schaefer et al., “The Obligation to Participate in Biomedical Research” (2009), PDF on Blackboard; Baylis, “Pregnant Women Deserve Better (2010) PDF on Blackboard.

**October 16:** Medical Research Involving Humans. Film: “Extreme Measures.” **First Paper Due**

**October 21, 23:** 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 28, 30:** 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; Savulescu, “Procreative Beneficence,” in Course Pack.

**November 4, 6:** 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 13:** 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.

**November 18, 20:** Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Readings: Callahan, “When Self-Determination Runs Amok,” 381-385 in K&S; New England Journal of Medicine, “Physician-Assisted Suicide,” in Course Pack; Film: “The Sea Inside;” Film: “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly.” **Second Paper Due November 20**

**November 25, 27:** Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources: Readings: Menzel, “Rescuing Lives: Can We Count?” 407-409 in K&S; Harris, “The Value of Life,” 428-436 in K&S; Moss and Siegler, “Should Alcoholics Compete Equally for Liver Transplantation?” 421-427 in K&S; Brudney, “Are Alcoholics Less Deserving of Liver Transplants?” in Course Pack; Glannon, Chapter 7

**December 2, 4:** Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources: Readings: Veatch, “How Should Age Matter?” 437-447 in K&S; Daniels, “A Lifespan Approach to Health Care,” 465-474 in K&S.

### **Quiz December 4.**

#### **Academic Honesty**

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, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on ‘Academic Misconduct’ in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

#### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

#### **Blackboard Help**

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

#### **Student Advising and Information Resources**

- **General Academic Concerns** – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts’ Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Program Planning** – For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy’s website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy’s current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

#### **Protection of Privacy**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. 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.

#### **Student Ombudsperson and Students’ Union Representatives**

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students’ Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

#### **Safewalk**

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.