



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 313 Lec 1**  
**“Bioethics”**  
**Fall Term 2015**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:00-6:15, Earth Sciences Building, Room 054

**Instructor:** Walter Glannon  
**Office:** Social Sciences 1226  
**Office Phone:** 403-220-3171  
**Email:** [wglannon@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wglannon@ucalgary.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 1:30-3:30

***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) (K&S)  
*Biomedical Ethics*, Walter Glannon (Oxford University Press, 2005)  
*Choosing Children*, Jonathan Glover (Oxford University Press, 2006)  
Course Pack (at Bound and Copied)

***Evaluation***

In-class quiz Wednesday September 16= 10 percent  
In-class exam Monday October 19= 40 percent  
In-class exam Monday November 16= 40 percent  
In-class quiz Monday December 7= 10 percent

***Grading Method***

98-100 = A+	86-89 = B+	74-77 = C+	62-65 = D+
93-97 = A	82-85 = B	70-73 = C	58-61 = D
90-92 = A-	78-81 = B-	66-69 = C-	< 57 = F

***Policy on Missed Quizzes and Exams***

Students with medical or other extenuating reasons for not taking a quiz or exam on the designated date will not be penalized if they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances. They can make up the quiz or exam after consultation with the instructor.

## *Schedule*

**September 9:** 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 14:** Ethical theories and bioethical principles

### **September 16. In-class quiz**

**September 16:** 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; Jauhar, "When Doctors Need to Lie," in Course Pack; Mill, "On Liberty," 621-623 in K&S, Glannon, Chapter 2

**September 21, 23:** Patient-Doctor Relationship: Readings: Brody, "The Lie that Heals," in Course Pack; Walton, "Is it Ethical for Doctors to Prescribe Placebos?" in Course Pack; Macklin, "The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures," 664-675 in K&S.

**September 28-30:** Medical Research Involving 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; Glannon, Chapter 3.

**October 5, 7:** Medical Research Involving Humans: Readings: Harris, "Scientific Research Is a Moral Duty," in Course Pack; Shapshay and Pimple, "Participation in Research is an Imperfect Moral Duty: A Reply to John Harris," in Course Pack.

**October 14:** Film: "Extreme Measures."

### **October 19: In-Class Exam**

**October 21:** 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 26, 28:** 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 2, 4:** 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 9:** 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 16: In-Class Exam**

**November 18, 23:** 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," Biller-Andorno and Somerville in Course Pack.

**November 25:** Film: "The Sea Inside;" Film: "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

**November 30, December 2:** Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources: 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 7: In-Class Quiz

### 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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

### D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

### Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **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 or teaching assistant.

### 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.

#### PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2015:

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))