



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

Bioethics

Phil 313 LO1

May 6–June 17 2020

Instructor: Dr. Gillman Payette

Office: Zoom
Email: ggpayett@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00–12:00 or by appointment via Zoom.

Lecture Time and Place: Monday & Wednesday 13:00–15:45 (See D2L for specifics about meeting times via Zoom).

Teaching Assistant: Eric Bohner

Email: eric.bohner1@ucalgary.ca

Prerequisites: There are no official prerequisites for this course, but patience is a must.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes:

This is a course in applied ethics. That means that it looks at how to apply various ethical principles to analyse situations rather than trying to evaluate the validity of those principles. And we will do this for an number of central discussion in this area. In this course, we try to understand how to balance concerns regarding, e.g., respecting a patient's autonomy and

concern for their well-being. Or whether we should consider age as a deciding factor when we have a limited number of ventilators to use. These are just a couple of topics we may consider. A more instructive list of the central debates we will look at can be found in the schedule below. We will also focus on items relevant to pandemics and public health, given current circumstances.

This is also a philosophy course, and the kinds of skills that are developed in philosophy are argument comprehension and evaluation—important critical thinking skills. That means that you will spend your time reading (contemporary) primary sources, expressing those arguments in writing and orally, and expressing your own arguments in both forms as well. Put another way, you will practice articulating your comprehension of the readings, analysing the arguments presented, and, finally, doing the same for your own views.

The class will be conducted through the assignment of readings and sets of questions designed to help you direct your reading. I will post videos of my answers to those questions after we discuss the readings. There will also be discussion questions which are more open-ended. They will be the topic of tutorial discussion, and fodder for the message boards.

Required Texts: *Biomedical Ethics: a Canadian focus 3ed* Fisher et al. 2018, Oxford University Press (You can get an electronic version of the text. Contact the bookstore for more information.)

Contacting the Instructor: The way to contact me is via email. When you write an email *please include ‘Phil313–your name–’ in the subject line*. If you don’t get an email back from me, check to see if you have included this. **If you email me after 4:30 pm or on the weekend, do not expect me to reply until the next day or Monday, respectively.**

Requirements and Evaluation

Two Paths to Go By: I believe engagement is very important in philosophy, and those who are uncomfortable learning under their own direction will probably want to engage more. However, I realize that some people just don’t want to participate. For second year classes I am content with that, so I will use two paths of assessment. You must choose one of the paths by the second week of class, and sign a contract to that effect. The real difference between the two paths is in the weighting of tasks and path one includes a participation mark.

Path 1		
Task	Due	%
Writing Assignment (best 2 of 3):	May 15, 29, Jun 12	45
Final Test:	Jun 16	15
Final Paper:	Jun 20	25
Participation:		15
Buddy Bonus:		5

Path 2		
Task	Due	%
Writing Assignment (best 2 of 3):	May 15, 29, Jun 12	50
Final Test:	Jun 16	15
Final Paper:	Jun 20	35
Buddy Bonus:		5

Writing Assignments: The assignments are to be your own work, but I encourage talking to your peers about them before and while writing them, but don't copy each other. They will have a very strict word limit: usually between 300 and 500 words. The assignments will be very specific, and it is very important to follow the instructions for the question asked. Don't put your name on the assignment. If you do, you will get a 0.

There will be three of these assignments and I will take the best two of them. They are due on Friday nights by 20:00 on the dates above. These will be submitted online (either D2L or Turnitin, not sure yet). These will be marked according to a rubric which will be posted in the assignment. **IMPORTANT:** make sure that you take a screen shot of the submission, just in case something goes awry.

Final Test: This test will be 25 multiple choice questions, open for 24 hours. The content covered will, potentially, be everything from the course.

Final Paper: The final paper will be on some topic in the course. I will provide a list of possible topics, i.e., a specific question that you will address, in about the third week of class. The paper should be at least 1000 words and no more than 1500. It will be submitted through Turnitin.

Participation mark: This method of assessment will be used only for the first assessment path. You will be assessed by your posts in the content sections of the D2L message board

(10 pts), and participation in the Zoom “tutorials” (5 pts). For the message boards, you will have to make regular posts, at least one a week, but if there is only one a week, it must be substantial, e.g., starting a new topic and giving your thoughts or responding with substantial comments to a previous post. In the tutorial sessions, you will have to discuss with your buddy(ies) and show a willingness to respond when called upon. I will give you a mark out of 5 and you will get an average of those as the other five points for the participation grade. Oh, I will be assigning everyone at least one buddy. I will say more about that below.—I have not quite decided how I will conduct the tutorial sessions yet since it depends in part on how many people choose path one.

Buddy Bonus: You will each be randomly assigned at least one buddy—no, you do not get to choose your buddy. This is someone who you can get in touch with and talk about the questions with, ask them questions, do some Zooming, or whatever. In the end, there will be a chance for you to give your buddy(ies) up to five percentage points on the term. You will also have to give me a short justification—description of how you worked together—for why your buddy deserves the points you are giving them. These are bonus marks, so it can pay to help out your peers.

Policies

Anonymity: I mark everything anonymously, so don’t put your name on anything! The software should take care of that. That being said, take screen shots of submissions to avoid problems.

Late Work and Extensions: The due dates for submitted work are soft in the following sense: If the work is not submitted by the due date and time, but is submitted within 24 hours of it, it will not be penalized, but it will not receive comments apart from those in the rubric. After 48 hours past the due date and time the assignment will not be marked. I will be using Turnitin to screen for plagiarism in the final essays. Extensions will only be granted for medical or other valid reasons. Too much work is not a valid reason. To write the test outside of the allotted time you must have a valid reason, and it must be given to me before the test (after the test only in the case of emergencies).

Paths: Once you sign a contract for a path, being released from that contract will only occur for valid reasons.

Absences: If you choose path one, excused absences will only be granted for valid reasons.

Buddies: I will be randomly assigning everyone at least one buddy. I will do that after people have chosen their assessment paths so that everyone can get a buddy in the same path. Part of having a buddy is to discuss readings, help each other get clarity on what is needed for the assignments, discuss feedback, and in the tutorials, discuss the questions asked ahead of being called on to respond—if you choose path one.

Letter Grades: The following is how percentages will be transformed into letter grades; marks will not be rounded.

	A+	≥	95	>	A	≥	85	>	A-	≥	80	
80	>	B+	≥	77	>	B	≥	73	>	B-	≥	70
70	>	C+	≥	67	>	C	≥	63	>	C-	≥	60
60	>	D+	≥	57	>	D	≥	50	>	F		

Schedule

This schedule is **tentative**, but should give you a rough idea of the order of the topics. It does give you information as to what weeks the assignments are due—I will try to stick to those dates. Finally, I am not packing the schedule because in my experience we never get to all of it, this way there is a chance that we will get to most of what is listed. Note that May 18th is Victoria day and there is no class.

- **May 6: Introduction & Sec 1.1–1.7**
- **May 11: Competence, Consent and Paternalism**
- **May 13: Confidentiality (Assignment 1, May 15)**
- **May 18: Victoria Day–No Classes**
- **May 20: Professional Autonomy**
- **May 25: Reproduction**
- **May 27: Death and End-of-life Decisions (Assignment 2, May 29)**
- **June 1: Health Care Resources I**

- **June 3: Health Care Resources II**
- **June 8: Public Health I (Final Paper Topics)**
- **June 10: Public Health II (Assignment 3, June 12)**
- **June 15: Research**
- **June 17: Review and Final Test (Final Paper, June 20)**

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf.

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may

decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For

information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include

a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Online Resources and Electronic Devices

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. Devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments directly to the student UNLESS

written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-pdf) and requirements of the copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).