



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
 FACULTY OF ARTS
 Department of Philosophy

PHIL 313 Lec 01
Bioethics
 Summer 2023
 Online Delivery
COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Jennifer Warriner, PhD.

Email: jennifer.warriner@ucalgary.ca (You can expect a response from me in 24-48 hours.)

Course meeting times: Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00-3:45pm, online

Office Hours: Afternoons, by appointment on Zoom (Please email me and we can arrange a time.)

COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION

This is a Synchronous course, delivered via Zoom. Students are expected to attend lectures during the scheduled time. *Lectures will not be recorded.*

PREREQUISITE(S)

No prerequisite(s)

COURSE INFORMATION

When a physician and a patient disagree over a certain course of medical treatment, who should ultimately decide? What is informed consent and why is it so important? What makes clinical trials ethical? Medical professionals, patients, and their loved ones are routinely confronted with ethical challenges within a healthcare setting. Bioethics is a relatively new discipline that aims to understand and address these challenges. We will begin by considering the theoretical foundations of bioethics and the complexity of moral reasoning within a medical setting. From there, we will consider some of the central ethical issues within a medical context, including how to maintain and uphold the well-being and dignity of patients, autonomous decision-making, the rights and responsibilities of medical professionals, patients, and their loved ones, and justice and fairness in healthcare.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify what constitutes an ethical issue in a healthcare setting
- Comprehend the complexity of ethical reasoning within a healthcare setting
- Apply ethical reasoning to a clinical ethics case study
- Appreciate the importance of clinical ethics within a healthcare setting
- Critically digest, interpret, and analyze philosophical arguments
- Write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions.
- Engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

There is no required textbook. All readings will be posted on D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment Components and Grading Schemes

- First paper, due Friday, July 14th: 25%
- News article position paper, due Friday, July 28th: 25%
- Two responses to other student news article position paper, due Tuesday, August 8th: 10%
- Second paper, due Tuesday, August 15th: 30%
- Participation: 10%

News article position paper: Students will be required to find a news article from a reputable website about a clinical ethics issue. Students will be expected to develop an argument (1000 words maximum) explaining their position on the news article. This position paper will be posted on a D2L Discussion Board.

Responses to news article position paper: Students will be required to complete one response to two different news article position papers posted by other students on D2L. Each response will be 500 words maximum. All responses should be posted on D2L.

Papers: Papers should be 1500-2000 words, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 2.54cm margins. Papers should provide a clear thesis statement, exposition on a philosopher's position, and an argument in response to this position. I will provide topics. All papers should be submitted to D2L.

Participation: Participation involves active, informed, and consistent contributions to class discussion **over the course of the semester**. Please note that "class discussion" includes asking a question or raising a critical point during lecture, either orally or using the chat function on Zoom; posting a discussion question about course content on the D2L discussion board; sending me an email with a question or critical point about course content.

For all assignments, the quality of a student's writing is a factor in the evaluation of the work. See for further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

There is no midterm or final exam in the course.

Course policies

Late assignments: Late assignments will be accepted, but may be penalized 2%/day, at my discretion.

There will be no "extra-credit" assignments available to any student for any reason.

Given that all work is submitted electronically, please screenshot the D2L submitted field or have the confirmation email ready to show me, just in case of systems issues.

Grading Scale

	A: 93-100	A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89	B: 83-86	B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79	C: 73-76	C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69	D: 60-66	F: <60

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.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. 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.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services

- 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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising> for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director ifantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@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. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

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

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. 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 (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies->

[Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf](#)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).