



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 313 Lec 01 – “Bioethics”**

**Winter Term 2016**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30pm-4:45pm, SA 147

**Instructor:** Walter Glannon

**Office:** SS 1226

**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 Childress*, Jonathan Glover (Oxford University Press, 2006)

Course Pack (at Bound and Copied)

***Evaluation***

In-class quiz Monday January 18= 10 percent

In-class exam Wednesday February 24= 40 percent

In-class exam Wednesday March 23= 40 percent

In-class quiz Wednesday April 13= 10 percent

There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

***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

Because correct grammar, syntax and spelling are necessary to express ideas and formulate arguments clearly, these factors will be considered in the evaluation of quizzes and exams.

***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

**January 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.

**January 13:** Ethical theories and bioethical principles

**January 18: In-class quiz**

**January 20:** 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

**January 25, 27:** 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.

**February 1, 3:** 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.

**February 8, 10:** 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.

**February 22:** Film: “Extreme Measures.”

**February 24: In-Class Exam**

**February 29, March 2:** 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.

**March 7, 9:** 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.

**March 14, 16:** 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.

**March 21:** Genetics: Readings: Glover, *Choosing Children*.

**March 23: In-Class Exam**

**March 28, 30:** 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, 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.

**April 4, 6:** Film: “The Sea Inside;” Film: “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly.”

**April 11:** 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

## April 13: In-Class Quiz

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### 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 more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require 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 UCalgary’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 WINTER 2016:

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