



FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 313 "Bioethics"
Winter Term 2018
TR 14:00 – 15:15, KNB 133

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Office Hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 15:30 -16:30 (after class)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to Bioethics – the study of ethical issues related to health care. We will examine a number of specific issues including consent, abortion, euthanasia, and genetic enhancement through the lens of philosophical ethical theory.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Gain knowledge of positions, arguments and issues in bioethics ;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex arguments concerning bioethics;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

Our Textbook

Biomedical Ethics: a Canadian focus, edited by Johanna Fisher
Other readings and support materials may be posted on D2L.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 1 Arguments and Ethics

Week 2 2.2 Who Decides for the Patient?

Week 3 2.3 Informed Consent

Week 3 3.3 Truth-Telling

Week 4 4 Moral Status of the Human Fetus
and Infant

Week 5 5 End-of-Life Decision-Making

Week 6 6.2 Eugenics

Week 7 6.4 Genetic Treatment and
Enhancement

Week 8 7 Access to Health Care

Week 9 8.2 Micoallocation: The Necessity of
Rationing

Week 10 8.3 Increasing Resources through
Commodification

Week 11 9.2 The Dark History of Human
Research

Week 12 Human/Women's Rights and
Feminist Transversal Politics

Grading

Quizzes

After each class a short quiz will be available on D2L and will be due before the next class. The idea here is to spread-out your work load more evenly throughout the semester and give you good real-time information and control over your grade than if you had 1 or 2 exams. Quizzes will make up %37 of your final grade.

Critical Reading Exercises

1. Thesis Statements

Readings will be assigned for each class. From week 3 on, you will have the opportunity to submit a **Thesis Statement** for each reading. A Thesis Statement is a sentence or two that

describes the main point that the author is arguing for. Your Thesis Statement will be marked pass/fail. You can submit up to 18 passing Thesis Statements for a maximum of %18 percent of your final grade (1%percent each).

2. Argument Summaries

At week 4 you'll be able to submit **Argument Summaries** along with your Thesis Statements. An Argument Summary is sentence or two describing each point that that the author uses to argue for their main point. Your Argument Summaries will be marked pass/fail. You can submit up to 10 passing Argument Summaries for a maximum of %10 of your final grade (%1 each).

3. Critical Thoughts

At week 5 you'll also be able to submit **Critical Thoughts** along with your Thesis Statements and Arguments Summaries. A Critical Thought is a sentence or two that describes, a problem with the argument, a way it could be improved, a way it could be expanded, an unexpected implication of the argument, an unremarked quality of the argument etc. Your Critical thoughts will be marked pass/fail. You can submit up to 5 passing Critical Thoughts for a total of %10 of your final grade (2% each).

The goal of these three exercises is to guide you through a systematic process of accurately reading and critically assessing texts.

Paper (25%)
5 Critical Thoughts (10%)
10 Argument Summaries (10%)
18 Thesis Statements (18%)
Quizzes (37%)

Paper

A week after the final class you can submit a paper (April 20th). Your paper will be a critical discussion of one or more of the readings we went over in class. Ideally you will have discovered your paper topic through one or more of your critical reading exercises. You'll want to start working on your paper as soon as possible. I recommend looking through the textbook now and considering which topics you would most like to write about. Your paper will be worth 25% of your final grade.

No late work without reasonable excuse.

I have set up the course to give you much information and control over your grade. If you are concerned about your final grade keep an eye on your marks throughout the semester. Don't wait until the end of the course to discover that you are on track for a C+ when you want an A.

Letter grades will be assigned in accordance with the following scale:

0-45	F	71-75	B-
46-50	D	76-80	B
51-55	D+	81-85	B+
56-60	C-	86-90	A-
61-65	C	91-95	A
66-70	C+	96-100	A+

COURSE POLICIES

Changes

I expect that the course will follow the course schedule. However, for any number of reasons things may need to be changed. If the number of readings change so will the minimum number of reading exercises required for full marks.

Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory, but I do make announcements, discuss expectations, and go over important material in class. Coming to class is the best way for you to be on top of all things PHIL 313.

How to Contact Me

You can see me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me at some other time. Perhaps the best way to reach me is through E-mail, which I try to check once a day usually in the morning. I should also mention that I encourage you to offer me feedback about any aspect of the course — it is important for me to know how you think things are going, and to be flexible enough to adjust to your needs.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, 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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

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. 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

Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca), Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

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 Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

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.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging 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.

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>