



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 547 – Advanced Topics in Applied Ethics**  
**Lec 02, Topic 02: “Neuroethics”**

**Winter Term 2011**

**Course Outline**

Lectures: Monday, 5:00-7:30 pm in SS 105

**Instructor:** Walter Glannon

**Office:** SS 1226

**Phone:** 220-3171

**Email:** [wglannon@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wglannon@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday: 1:30-3:30pm

**Course Description**

Neuroethics is an interdisciplinary field divided into two branches: the ethics of neuroscience; and the neuroscience of ethics. The first branch examines practical ethical issues arising from measuring and intervening in the brain. These issues include informed consent and benefit-risk assessments regarding the use of brain imaging, psychotropic drugs, and neurosurgery. The second branch examines the neural mechanisms that underlie reasoning and decision-making and how these mechanisms bear on questions about free will, moral and legal responsibility, and moral judgment. This course addresses questions in both branches of neuroethics. We will focus on four topics: 1) free will and responsibility; 2) moral reasoning; 3) cognitive enhancement; and 4) disorders of consciousness and the neurological determination of death.

**Required Texts**

- Course pack in Bookstore
- *Bioethics and the Brain*, Walter Glannon. Oxford University Press, 2008
- *Effective Intentions: The Power of Conscious Will*, Alfred Mele. Oxford University Press, 2009
- *Neuroethics: An Introduction with Readings*, Martha Farah, ed. MIT Press, 2010

**Evaluation**

2 papers:

The first paper should be 8-10 pages, due in class February 16	25%
The second paper should be 10-12 pages, due in class April 13	50%
Class Presentation, 20 minutes	15%
Participation in class discussion	10%

**Grading Method**

A+ 98-100	B+ 86-89	C+ 74-77	D+ 62-65
A 94-97	B 82-85	C 70-73	D 58-61
A- 90-93	B- 78-81	C- 66-69	F 0-57

### **Late Submission of Papers**

Papers submitted later than the due date will lose one-half letter grade for each day beyond that date. Students with medical or other extenuating reasons for not submitting a paper on the due date will not be penalized, provided that they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances.

### **Schedule**

January 10: Introduction: Overview of the brain-mind relation and neuroethics (Readings: Roskies, 2002; Glannon, Chapter 2; Farah, 1-10)

January 17: Free will and moral responsibility (Readings: Greene and Cohen, 232-257 in Farah; Roskies, 2006; Mele 2006 and 2009; Glannon, Chapter 3).

January 24: Free will and moral responsibility (Reading: Mele 2009)

January 31: Free will and moral responsibility (Reading: Haggard, 2008)

February 7: Legal responsibility (Readings: Hyman, 259-267 in Farah; Morse, 268-280 in Farah)

February 7: Moral reasoning (Readings: Greene 2001; Greene et al. 2003; Greene et al. 2004; Singer 2005; Berker 2009; Kamm 2009)

February 14: Moral reasoning. **First Paper due February 14**

February 21: Reading Week

February 28: Cognitive Enhancement (Readings: Harris, 2007, 2010; Sandel, 2010; Parens, 2010; Kamm, 2010; Farah et al., 30-41, in Farah; President's Council, 58-72 in Farah)

March 7: Cognitive Enhancement

March 14: Cognitive Enhancement

March 21: Disorders of Consciousness and the Neurological Determination of Death (Readings: Laureys, 302-320 in Farah; Wilkinson et al., 2009; Savulescu and Kahane, 2009; Glannon, Chapt. 6)

March 28: Disorders of Consciousness and the Neurological Determination of Death

April 4: Disorders of Consciousness; Student presentations

April 11: Student presentations.

**Second Paper due April 13**

## **INTELLECTUAL HONESTY**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

## **STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES**

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski ([arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan ([arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)), Lara Schmitz ([arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)), and Vincent St. Pierre ([arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)).

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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 unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

## **SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS**

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).