



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 313 Lec 02—"Bioethics"

### Winter Term 2017 Course Outline

**Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:00pm-6:15pm, ST 128**

**Instructor: Walter Glannon**

**Office: SS 1226**

**Office Phone: 220-3171**

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

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

#### **Course Description**

This course addresses the main ethical position and arguments in sox area 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 student 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 resolve din more than one reasonable way

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views as they apply to biotechnology and medicine;
- Deep knowledge of normative practical ethics as a mode of philosophical inquiry in bioethics;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex arguments for different positions on different questions in bioethics;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

#### **Required Texts**

- *Bioethics: An Anthology*, third edition, Helga Kuhse, Udo Schuklenk and Peter Singer, eds. (Blackwell, 2016) (K, S&S)
- *Biomedical Ethics*, Walter Glannon (Oxford University press, 2005)
- *Choosing Children*, Jonathan Glover (Oxford University Press, 2006)

#### **Course Assessment**

In-class quiz, Monday January 16=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

#### **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 Misses 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 9: Introduction: past, present and future prominent issues in bioethics; ethical theories and bioethical principles. Readings: Kuhse, Schuklenk and Singer (K, S &S), *Bioethics*, "Introduction;" Glannon, *Biomedical Ethics*, Chapter 1.

January 11: Ethical theories and biomedical principles; Glannon, Chapter 1.

January 16: In-class quiz

January 18: Patient-Doctor Relationship: Readings: Kant, "On a Supposed Right to Lie from Altruistic Motives," 613-614 in K, S &S; Collins, "Should Doctors Tell the Truth?," 615-620 in K, S & S; Higgs, "On Telling Patients the Truth," 621-627 in K, S &S; Mill, "On Liberty," 631-633 in K, S &S; Glannon, Chap 2.

January 23, 25: Patient-Doctor Relationship: Readings: Brody, "The Lie that Heals" (handout); Walton, "Is it Ethical for Doctors to Prescribe Placebos?" (handout); Beauchamp, "Informed Consent," 635-641 in K, S &S; Macklin, "The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures," 642-653 in K, S &S.

January 30, February 1: Medical Research Involving Humans: Readings: Beecher, "Ethics and Clinical Research," 505-512 in K, S &S; Freedman, "Equipoise and the Ethics of Clinical Research," 513-519 in K, S &S; Glannon, Chapter 3.

February 6, 8: Medical Research Involving Humans: Readings: Harris: "Scientific Research Is a Moral Duty," 471-482 in K, S &S; Shapshay and Pimple, "Participation in Research Is an Imperfect Moral Duty: A Reply to John Harris," 483-488 in K, S &S.

February 13: Film: "Extreme Measures"

February 15: In-class exam

February 27, March 1: Reproductive Rights and Technologies: Readings; Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," 38-48 in K, S &S; Marquis, "Why Abortion Is Immoral," 49-60 in K, S &S; Glannon, Chapter 4.

March 6, 8: Reproductive Rights and Technologies: Readings: Parfit, "Rights, Interests and Possible People," 86-90 in K, S &S; Purdy, "Genetics and Reproductive Risk: Can Having Children Be Immoral?" 105-111 in K, S &S; Asch, "Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortion," 112-126 in K, S &S; Ethics Committee of the ASRM, "Sex Selection and Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis," 136-140 in K, S &S; Savulescu and Dahl, "A Response to the Ethics Committee of the ASRM," 141-143 in K, S &S; Savulescu, "Procreative Beneficence" (handout); Savulescu, "Sex Selection: The Case For" (handout).

March 13, 15: Reproductive Rights and Technologies; Genetics: Readings: Glover, "Questions about Some Uses of Genetic Engineering," 177-188 in K, S &S; Glover, *Choosing Children*.

March 20: Glover, *Choosing Children*

March 22: In-class exam

March 29: Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Readings: Rachels, "Active and passive Euthanasia," 288-291 in K, S & S; Kuhse, "Why Killing Is not Always Worse—and Sometimes Better—than Letting Die," 297-300 in K, S & S; Callahan, "When Self-Determination Runs Amok," 381-385 in K, S & S

April 3: Medical Decisions at the End of Life: Readings: Arguments for and Against Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia (handouts)

April 5: Films: "The Sea Inside" and "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"

April 10: Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources: Reading: Glannon, Chapter 7.

April 12: In-class quiz

## **IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

### **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 [https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> 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](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 Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl ([jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)), Reid Buchanan ([buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehan ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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, Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@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](http://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca) , [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca) .
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>