



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 313 Lec 20  
"BIOETHICS"  
SPRING TERM 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

**Instructor:** Dr. Reid Buchanan  
**Office:** SS 1252  
**Phone:** 220-3168  
**E-mail:** [buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)

**Lectures:** MW 6:00-8:30  
**Location:** SB105  
**Office Hours:** MW 5:30-6:00 (in classroom)

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Johanna Fisher (ed.), *BioMedical Ethics: A Canadian Focus* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

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 abortion, euthanasia and physician assisted suicide, experimentation on human subjects, and models of the physician/patient relationship. All of these concerns are highly contentious and are debated in both academic and non-academic arenas. The general aim of the course is to equip students with the analytical tools to clarify the moral dimensions of these issues with a view to assessing their moral status in an informed and judicious manner.

**COURSE WORK AND EVALUATION**

The course work will consist of two in-class exams, a term paper (6-8 pages) and a final quiz. There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam. The weight for each requirement is as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>% of Course Grade</u>	<u>Date</u>
Exam 1	30	Monday, June 1
Exam 1	30	Wednesday, June 16
Quiz	10	Wednesday, June 23
Paper	30	Wednesday, June 23

**ASSIGNMENT OF LETTER GRADES:**

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**

I expect that the course will proceed in accordance with the course schedule. However, unforeseen contingencies, e.g., particular difficulty or ease with a section of the course, may necessitate changes in the content covered on the dates listed on the schedule.

### Attendance

Attendance is not mandatory, but I do expect you to make every effort to be present at each session. Excepting extraordinary circumstances, I expect advance notice that you will be unable to attend class for an exam or to submit an assignment by the due date.

### How to Contact Me

You can see me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me at some other time. If you wish to make an appointment, please contact me directly by telephone or E-mail. Perhaps the best way to reach me is through E-mail, which I typically check a number of times each day. 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.

### Missed and Late Course Work

Medical or other formal documentation will be required for a missed exam. Without suitable documentation, you will not be permitted to re-schedule the exam, and you will receive a grade of zero.

### Intellectual 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 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 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. Intellectual honesty requires that 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. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence.

### Academic Accommodation

Students with documented disabilities who require academic accommodations must register with the University's Disability Resources Centre and communicate their needs to the instructor as soon as possible and no later than 14 days after the start of this course.