UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

Phil 313 Lec 01
Bioethics
Spring 2023
MW 9-11:45 Online

1 Who's teaching this?

Instructor: **Gillman Payette** (he/him)
Email: ggpayett@ucalgary.ca
Office: Social Sciences 1254
Office Hours: by appointment on zoom (not on the weekend)

2 How do I get in touch with you?

1. Your question may already be answered on the course discussion board (or in this outline). Check there first. If it is not, consider posting your question in the discussion board instead of sending an email.
2. If your inquiry is specific to your personal situation, feel free to send an email.
3. Ensure that "Phil 313" occurs in the subject line of your emails about this course. Otherwise there is a strong possibility that your message will be deleted unread as spam.
4. Please make sure your first and last names are clearly included in the body of any email message.
5. If you want to make an appointment please indicate the times when you are available.
6. I will do my best to reply within one business day. Please don't expect responses outside business hours.
7. It is customary to address university instructors by their title ("Dr. Payette" or "Prof. Payette") but I won't be offended if you call me 'Gillman'. Please don't call me 'Sir'.

3 What is this course about?

This is a course in applied ethics. That means that it looks at how to apply various ethical principles to analyse situations rather than trying to evaluate the validity of those principles. And we will do this for an number of central discussions in this area. In this course, we try to understand how to balance concerns regarding, e.g., respecting a patient's autonomy vs. ensuring their well-being. Or whether we should consider age as a deciding factor when we have a limited number of ventilators to use. These are just a couple of topics we may consider. A more instructive list of the central debates we will look at can be found in the schedule below. We will also focus on items relevant to pandemics and public health, given recent circumstances.

This is also, of course, a philosophy class, and there are three general skills that are crucial in philosophy: argument comprehension, evaluation, and construction. These are important critical thinking skills that are transferable into any context, and the primary learning outcome is the development and/or improvement of these skills. To develop these skill you will spend most of your time reading (contemporary-ish) primary

sources, expressing those arguments in writing and orally, and expressing your own arguments in both forms as well. Put another way, you will practice articulating your comprehension of the readings, analysing the arguments presented, and, finally, doing the same for your own views.

So, by the end of the class you will be expected to show a substantial knowledge of the views in bioethics; be able to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex primary sources; write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions; engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation; and analyse and evaluate options for action that may arise in complex, morally problematic situations in medical/technological decision-making contexts.

3.1   What prerequisites do I need for this course?

None. There are no prerequisites.

3.2   Required Texts

Most of the required readings will be linked on D2L, but we will use one textbook: *The Ethics of Pandemics* Meredith C. Schwartz (ed.) Broadview Press. It is available in electronic form which is probably the cheapest—and fastest—way to get it.

3.3   How will the course be run?

The first class will (probably) be conducted through traditional lectures to disseminate the necessary background on moral philosophy needed to understand the readings to come. The rest of the course will be conducted through the assignment of readings and sets of questions designed to help you direct your reading. You will discuss your answers to those questions in groups and then as a class during our synchronous meetings. We will usually also address discussion questions which are more open-ended.

3.4   Important Dates

- First Day of Class: May 3th

- Add/Delete Date: May 9th

- Writing assignments due: May 12th, May 19th, June 2nd, June 9th

- Last day to Withdrawal without paying: May 9th

- Rough Draft of Final Paper due: May 12th

- Last day to drop: June 15th

- Last Day of (our) Class: June 14th

- Final Test: June 15th

- Final Paper Due Date: June 19th

- Date of Final Exam: NA

3.5   Visit the D2L/Brightspace site

The course has a D2L/Brightspace site. You will find (information on) course readings, assignments, grades, and a discussion board there. Any updates, including revisions to the course schedule, will be posted there. **To make sure you don't miss a deadline or an important update, please review your notification settings.**

4 How will my grade be determined?

There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam.

4.1 Final grades

The final grade will be determined according to the following scheme:

Assessment		%
Writing Assignments	(Best 3 of 4)	45
Final Test:		15
Participation:		10
Final Paper	(rough draft 5%)	
	(final draft 25%)	30

Writing Assignments: The assignments are to be your own work, but I encourage talking to your peers about them before writing them. They will have a very strict word limit: usually between 300 and 500 words. The assignments will be very specific, and it is very important to follow the instructions for the question asked. Don't put your name on the assignment. If you do, you will get a 0.

There will be four of these assignments and I will take the best three of them. They are due on Friday nights by 20:00 (dates TBD). These will be submitted online in D2L. They will be marked according to a rubric which will be posted in the assignment; be sure to follow the rubric. IMPORTANT: make sure that your take a screen shot of the submission, just in case something goes awry.

Final Test: This test will be 25 multiple choice questions. It will be open for 24 hours, un-timed, open book, and you will get 2 attempts. The content covered will, potentially, be everything from the course.

Final Paper: The final paper will be on some topic in the course. I will provide a list of possible topics, i.e., specific questions that you can address. There will be a rough draft due, tentatively, May 18th and it is worth 5% of the total 30% of the final paper. It will be submitted through D2L. I want you to have given some thought to what your answer is to the question you are writing on before you have seen what others say. That way you can see how your thought evolves on the topic. It doesn't have to be good, and it doesn't have to be long (500-ish words is fine). The final draft of the paper should be at least 1000 words and no more than 1800. It will be submitted through D2L.

Participation mark: You will be assigned to groups a few times over the course. In the first half of synchronous sessions you will discuss the reading questions with your group. In the second half of each session you will address a discussion question and write up your conclusions. Those write-ups will be submitted and then graded. The final participation mark will be determined from an aggregate of those marks.

The final percentage will be translated into letter grades as follows:

		A+	≥	95	>	A	≥	85	>	A-	≥	80
80	>	B+	≥	77	>	B	≥	73	>	B-	≥	70
70	>	C+	≥	67	>	C	≥	63	>	C-	≥	60
60	>	D+	≥	57	>	D	≥	50	>	F		

4.2 Conduct

Learning can only happen well if everyone feels like they belong and are free to ask questions and participate in discussions. It is partly on you to make sure our course is such a space. So please be respectful, positive, and constructive in your participation in the course. It should go without saying, but do not post (links to) anything racist, misogynist, or homophobic, or NSFW, and don't stalk or harass your fellow students or instructors. Also, do not share links or passwords to live or recorded Zoom sessions outside the course.

4.3 Late policy

If you do not complete an assignment by its deadline, it counts as not completed. If there are factors beyond your control, and which you could not reasonably have planned for, which prevent you from completing activities (illness, family emergency, etc.) please contact the instructor so we can make arrangements. Please do so **as soon as possible**. You will not have the opportunity to make up work you missed early in the term if you don't tell me until the last week of term.

4.4   Checking your grades and reappraisals of work

University policies for reappraisal of term work and final grades apply (see the *Calendar* section "Reappraisal of Graded Term Work"). In particular, term work will only be reappraised within 10 calendar days of the date you are advised of your marks. Please keep track of your assignments and your marks (check them on D2L). You should save work you submit, e.g., by taking a screenshot.

5   Important departmental, faculty, and university information

5.1   Academic accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf

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:
ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

5.2   Absence or missed course assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

5.3   Student support and resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

5.4   Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director, Email: dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor, Email: jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator, Email: phildept@ucalgary.ca).

5.5   Writing assessment and support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as

general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

5.6   Required technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

5.7   Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted at elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy, ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf

5.8   Media recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf.

5.9   Academic misconduct/honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at: ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

5.10   University policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at:
ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may *not* be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student **unless** written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright. pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).