

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 313 Lec 60 - “Bioethics”
Summer 2009

Instructor: David Guerrero

Office: SS 1242

Phone: 220-6464

Email: dave.guerrero@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00, and by appointment

Lectures: MW 10:00-12:45

Location: ST 127

Course Description

This course is an introduction to Bioethics—the study of ethical issues that arise in the context of contemporary medicine and health care. Issues we will discuss include: end of life medical decisions; reproductive rights; genetic technologies; and scarce medical resource allocation. The aim of the course is to provide students with a genuine understanding of some of the central issues in bioethics in order to participate in the ongoing debates in an informed, critical and responsible manner.

Required Texts

Kuhse & Singer, *Bioethics: An Anthology* (Blackwell, 2nd edition), 2006

Walter Glannon, *Biomedical Ethics*, (Oxford University Press), 2005

As we move along, which readings we will be discussing will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements, Evaluation and Due Dates

- Two papers: The first paper, 1000 words, is due **July 22** and worth 25% of the total grade; second paper, 1500 words, is due **August 17** and worth 35% of the total grade.
- In-class exam: **July 29**, worth 30% of the total grade.
- One critical analysis, 300 words, is due **Aug 5**, worth 10% of the total grade.

There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam. No assignment is such that a passing grade on it is required to pass the course.

The following conversion table will be used to calculate final letter grades:

A+ 96-100	B+ 80-83	C+ 67-69	D+ 56-59
A 90-95	B 74-79	C 64-66	D 50-55
A- 84-89	B- 70-73	C- 60-63	F 0-49

Course Policies

Assignments are to be submitted in class (with the exception of the last). The last assignment is to be submitted in the course drop box located in the philosophy department (12th floor SS) **before 3:30 PM August 17**. *I will not accept email assignments*. The assigned grade will be zero for missed exams, unless the absence is University approved. Rescheduling missed exams require students to formally provide medical (or other) documentation.

Late Assignments: Fairness to conscientious students who submit their assignments on time demands that due dates be firmly adhered to. As such, assignments submitted later than the in-class due date (with the exception of the last; it is due at 3:30 PM) will be penalized at the rate of a grade per day beyond that date (e.g. a B+ paper submitted *one* day late, would receive a B) unless a legitimate (read: University approved) reason is provided.

Blackboard: Important class announcements will be made via Blackboard. Also, on occasion, further required and optional readings may be made available on the class's Blackboard site. Sometimes students assume that ignorance of such announcements and/or readings will excuse a number of things. But that assumption is not true. It is your responsibility to connect with Blackboard.

Office Hours: I encourage you to visit during office hours. If this is not possible, I am very happy to arrange an alternate time. Please email me to schedule such appointments.

Plagiarism: Failure to clearly acknowledge a source constitutes plagiarism, an extremely serious academic offence. *Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the assignment or in the course and may result in suspension or expulsion.*

A bit of advice: it is better to be safe than sorry. Become familiar with the University policy on plagiarism. If you have questions about documenting sources please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/efwr/writingcentre>).

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, please 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.

Student's Union Representative: The Humanities Representative is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.