



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 313 Lec 1 – “Bioethics”

Summer Term 2017

### Course Outline

Lectures: TR 9-11:45 am in ST 128

**Instructor:** David Boutland

**Office:** SS 1205

**Office hours:** T 12-1pm, or by appointment

**Phone:** 403-220-4328

**E-mail:** [cdmboutl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cdmboutl@ucalgary.ca)

#### **Course description:**

In the course we examine the arguments supporting a range of ethical positions in biotechnology and health care. Specifically, the class will consider ethical issues relating to the patient-doctor relationship, medical research, reproductive rights and technology, medical decisions at the end of life, the ethics of enhancement, and the distribution of scarce medical resources.

#### **Prerequisites:**

None

#### **Course Objectives:**

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views in bioethics;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex arguments from a range of practical and ethical issues in biotechnology and health care;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

#### **Texts:**

1) *Bioethics: An Anthology*, third edition, Helga Kuhse, Udo Schuklenk and Peter Singer eds. (Blackwell, 2016)

2) Additional assigned reading is available through Library e-journals. These are posted as pdf files on D2L, along with citation information.

#### **Course Assessment:**

There will be an in-class quiz, a term paper, a discussion facilitation group project and a take-home final exam. The paper will be on assigned topics from the readings. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>. There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam. There is no grade for participation, although students who regularly attend and

participate in tutorial will be eligible for a 1% bonus.

Weight	Assignment	Due dates
20%	Quiz	July 13
20%	Discussion Facilitation	Starting July 11
30%	Paper	August 8
30%	Take-home Final	August 18

Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class. Late work will be penalized one letter-grade step per day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness or family emergency. For example, an A- paper will receive a B+ if submitted within 24 hours of the assignment deadline, and a B if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the assignment deadline. Late assignments can be submitted by email but will not receive comments. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

**Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any instance thereof – downloading papers from the Internet, copying or paraphrasing material from a book, web-site, or a fellow student – will be reported to the Faculty and I will assign an F for the course or the assignment. Even copying one or two sentences constitutes plagiarism.**

#### Quiz (20%)

A quiz will be given during regular class time. A student arriving late for an exam will not be given extra time to complete it. A student who fails to show up for the scheduled exam, without an excuse accepted by me, will receive a grade of "F" (0%). A minimal and necessary condition for an excuse to be acceptable to me is that I be contacted prior to the writing of the exam.

#### Discussion Facilitation (20%)

Discussions will involve the whole class. However, starting in the second week of class, students will be in charge of leading/facilitating the discussion. In groups of 3 or 4, students will be asked to present a 10-15 minute presentation discussing an aspect of their chosen reading that was of special interest and explain why they found it challenging/stimulating. Students may use a variety of other examples, stories, videos, questions and other sources that may help to facilitate the discussion. If a text had a powerful emotional effect on you, you may share your impressions. If the text reminded you of a concrete situation you read about, witnessed or experienced, you can mention it. Students should draw a connection between these cases and some aspect of their chosen reading. In addition to the presentation, students are required to submit a 2-3 page write up of their presentation, due in-class one week after presentation date.

#### Paper (30%)

Paper topics will be given well in advance of the due date. Papers are to be approximately 1500 words (around 5 pages). Your essay must be grammatically correct, with correct punctuation and spelling. Publication information must be provided for any source you use, in any commonly used format you prefer.

### **Take-Home Final (30%)**

The take-home final will be made available on the last day of class, Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. A hard copy of your final must be submitted to the course dropbox in the Philosophy department by 4 pm on Friday, August, 18<sup>th</sup>. Extensions will be given under special circumstances only.

### **Participation**

Consistent attendance and participation in class is expected. Attendance will be taken each class. Students that regularly attend and participate in class will be eligible for a 1% bonus on their final grade.

### **Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the U of C calendar:**

- A: Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
- B: Good — clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
- C: Satisfactory — basic understanding of the subject matter.
- D: Minimal pass — marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
- F: Fail — unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The quality of writing will be a component in grading.

### **Grading scale:**

A+	97-100	A	93-96	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	60-66		
F	59 and below				

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

### **Academic Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, 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**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

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/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

## **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> 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 ([buchanan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanan@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty ([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, Tram Nguyen ([tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tram.nguyen1@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>