



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

### **PHIL 313 LEC 01**

#### **Bioethics**

Summer 2020

Online Delivery

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor:** Jennifer Warriner, PhD

**Email:** [jennifer.warriner@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jennifer.warriner@ucalgary.ca) (You should expect a response from me within 24-48 hours.)

**Office:** N/A

**Office Hours:** Afternoons, by appointment on Zoom (Please email me and we can arrange a time)

**Office Phone:** N/A

**Teaching Assistant:** Chloe Stephenson

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

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

When a physician and a patient disagree over a certain course of medical treatment, who should ultimately decide? What is informed consent and why is it so important? What makes clinical trials ethical? Medical professionals, patients, and their loved ones are routinely confronted with ethical challenges within a healthcare setting. Bioethics is a relatively new discipline that aims to understand and address these challenges. We will begin by considering the theoretical foundations of bioethics and the complexity of moral reasoning within a medical setting. From there, we will consider some of the central ethical issues within a medical context, including how to maintain and uphold the well-being and dignity of patients, autonomous decision-making, the rights and responsibilities of medical professionals, patients, and their loved ones, and justice and fairness in healthcare. This course is intended for philosophy students, as well as those considering a career in health sciences.

### **PREREQUISITE(S)**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify what constitutes an ethical issue in a healthcare setting
- Comprehend the complexity of ethical reasoning within a healthcare setting
- Apply ethical reasoning to a clinical ethics case study
- Appreciate the importance of clinical ethics within a healthcare setting
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation

### **REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS**

There is no required textbook. All readings are available online or will be posted on D2L.

This course will be delivered exclusively online, using Zoom and D2L. Each Monday, I will post two recorded lectures on D2L, which you may watch at any time, by Thursday of that week. On Thursday

afternoon, 1-2:00 p.m., I will hold a drop-in Zoom meeting, in which students may raise questions about course material discussed in the lecture recordings or about course requirements. While this drop-in meeting is not mandatory, nor is this component graded, I strongly recommend that students take advantage of this time for help with the course and to interact with myself, the TA, and other students.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Please see D2L for more detailed instructions regarding the assignments

Assignment	Assignment Weight	Due Date
Two <i>precis</i> of two assigned course readings.	20% x 2 = 40%	First <i>precis</i> : Weeks 2-4 Second <i>precis</i> : Weeks 5-7 (Students may choose when they wish to submit, within the above specified limitations)
One case study position paper, maximum 750 words, written on a bioethics case study (which I will provide).	20%	Tuesday, July 14 <sup>th</sup>
Two responses, maximum 500 words, to two different case study position papers.	5% x 2 = 10%	By Sunday, July 26 <sup>th</sup>
One paper, 1500-2000 words, maximum.	30%	August 19 <sup>th</sup>

**Precis:** A *précis* is a short paper (750 words or less) that has two main aims. The first is to distill a philosopher's argument in an article to its essential elements. The second aim is to provide a short critical response to this argument. Students may choose from the assigned articles and may choose when they wish to submit them. However, one must be submitted between weeks 2-4, and one must be submitted between weeks 5-7. Both should be submitted to D2L.

**Case study position paper:** Students will be required to complete one case study position paper on a bioethical case study, which I will assign. Students will be expected to develop an argument (750 words maximum) explaining their position on their case study. This position paper will be posted on a D2L Discussion Board.

**Responses to case studies:** Students will be required to complete two responses to two different case studies position papers posted on D2L. Each response will be 500 words maximum. All responses should be posted on D2L.

**Paper:** The paper will 1500-2000 words maximum, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 2.54cm margins. Papers should provide a clear thesis statement, exposition on a philosopher's position, and an argument in response to this position. I will provide topics. All papers should be submitted to D2L.

There is no registrar scheduled final exam for this course.

### Course policies

Late assignments: Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized 2%/day. In order to avoid penalty, students must provide written documentation explaining why an assignment was late.

There will be no “extra-credit” assignments available to any student for any reason.

Please screenshot the D2L submitted field or sent email when submitting work electronically in case of systems issues.

A student need not receive a passing mark on every assignment in order to pass the course.

Grading Scale	A: 93-100	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: <60

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

### **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](http://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](http://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.

### **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. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. 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. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html)

### **Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](http://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

### **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](https://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](https://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)).

### **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](https://ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Online Resources and Electronic Devices**

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](https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it) for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. 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.

### **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](https://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.

### **University Policies**

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf)

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](https://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 ([ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](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](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).

