UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 313 Lec 01: Bioethics
Winter Term 2010

Course Outline

Instructor: Elizabeth Brake
Office: SS 1220
Phone: 220-3163
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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00

Lecture Time: MW 1600-1715
Lecture Location: SS 541

Course Description

An examination of ethical and legal problems arising in and about health care. Issues to be considered include euthanasia, abortion, withdrawal of treatment, the physician-patient relationship, research on human subjects, and genetic technology. The course will emphasize the use of philosophical reasoning and argumentation.

Text

Biomedical Ethics: A Canadian Focus, ed. Johnna Fisher, Oxford University Press, 2009. This text is on reserve at the library.

Assessment

Weight	***Assignment***	***Due date***
20% each	3 papers	February 3, March 3, April 7
30%	Mid-term	March 17
10%	In-class final	April 14

To pass the class, you must complete all assignments. Detailed instructions will be given for each writing assignment. There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

I will not accept assignments by e-mail. Assignments handed in outside class must be submitted in the drop box on the 12th floor of Social Sciences.

Late work will be penalised by 3 points each day it is overdue, unless there is a documented excuse.

Plagiarism **will not be tolerated. Any instance of plagiarism – downloading papers from the Internet, copying or paraphrasing material from any source – will be reported to the Faculty of Humanities and I will assign an F for the course or the assignment.**

As stated in the University Calendar, letter grades reflect the following standards:
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.

I use the following 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				

There is a **Blackboard site for this course**. Log in at http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/ using your U of C e-mail username and password. I will use Blackboard

- to communicate grades
- to make announcements (including reading assignments)
- to post course documents (this outline, writing assignments, powerpoint slides)
- to link to philosophy web-sites.

Reading schedule

Specific page numbers will be given out in class.

Week of	Topic and reading
Jan 11	Introduction: Chapter 1
Jan 18	Medical Decision-Making: 2.1, 2.2, and 2.5
Jan 25	Privacy, Truth-telling, Informed Consent: 3.1, 3.2 ('Privacy', 'Confidentiality'), 3.3 ('The Concept of …', 'Culture, Power, …'), and 3.5
Feb 1	Withdrawal of Treatment: 4.1, 4.2
Feb 8	Voluntary Active Euthanasia: 4.3 ('Bioethics …', and articles by Rachels, Brock, Callahan), 4.5
Feb 15	**READING WEEK – NO LECTURES**
Feb 22	Abortion – Fetal Status and Women's Rights: 5.1, 5.2 (articles by Marquis, Warren, Thomson, Sherwin)
Mar 1	Refusing treatment in pregnancy and for infants: 5.3, 5.4
Mar 8	Eugenics and Genetics: 6.1, 6.2, 6.6 (Case 1)
Mar 15	Genetics, cont.: 6.4, 6.5 (article by Purdy), 6.6
Mar 17	**MID-TERM**

Mar 22	A right to health care: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3
Mar 29	Allocating Resources: 8.1, 8.2, 8.4
Apr 5	Research Ethics: 9.2, 9.3, 9.5
Apr 12	Research Ethics, cont., and review
Apr 14	**IN-CLASS FINAL**

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 (this includes having another impersonate the student 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.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. 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.

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.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.