



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 313 Lec 1 – “Bioethics”

Winter Term 2018

Course Outline

Lectures: MW 3:30-4:45pm in SA 119

Instructor: David Boutland

Office: SS 1205

Office hours: W 10-11:30am, or by appointment

Phone: 403-220-4328

E-mail: 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). Online version available through Library.
- 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 midterm, a paper proposal, a term paper, and a take-home final exam. 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.

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due dates</u>
25%	Midterm	Feb 14
10%	Paper Proposal	March 2
30%	Paper	March 28
35%	Take-home Final	April 16

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.

Midterm (25%)

The midterm 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.

Paper Proposal (10%)

Your proposal must include a focused thesis statement, a detailed proposal outlining the project and how you intend to complete it (approximately 500 words), at least three bibliographical entries (one being an assigned reading, the other two being sources independently obtained by the student), and critical review of the two independent sources.

*NOTE: Submission of the paper proposal is mandatory. Submission of the final paper will not be accepted under any circumstances if the paper proposal was not submitted.

Paper (30%)

A formal term paper defending a clear thesis on a topic drawn from the course syllabus and course content. Papers are to be approximately 2000 words (around 7-8 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 (35%)

The take-home final will be made available on the last day of class, Wednesday, April 11th. A hard copy of your final must be submitted to the course dropbox in the Philosophy department or on D2L by 4 pm on Monday, April 16th. Extensions will be given under special circumstances only.

Participation

Participation in class is expected. 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.

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

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. 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), Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (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 prereq for a course, email the Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (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.

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, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>