UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 399.17 Lec. 01
Pandemic Ethics
Summer, 2022

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Ron Wilburn
Email: ronald.wilburn@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Wednesday at Social Sciences Building 1250 and via Zoom, and by Appointment (send me an email, and we can arrange to connect virtually)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The University of Calgary resides upon the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River; the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is "Moh'kins'tsis", which we now call the City of Calgary.

ii' taa'poh'to'p, the Blackfoot name of the University of Calgary's Indigenous Strategy, was bestowed and transferred in ceremony by Kainai Elder Andy Black Water on June 21, 2017. The name signifies a place to rejuvenate and re-energize while on a journey. Traditionally, these places are recognized as safe, caring, restful – and offer renewed energy for an impending journey. In a traditional naming ceremony, transitioning into the new name is a journey of transformation towards self-actualization.

COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION
Asynchronous narrated PowerPoint lectures, with weekly guided discussion assignments (each requiring a response ranging from a single well-structured paragraph to a page or so, as well as substantive responses to two posts by other students).

PREREQUISITE(S)
There are no prerequisites for this course:
ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/philosophy.html

COURSE INFORMATION
Our concern in this class is to address some of the ethical issues that have recently arisen in connection with Covid-19. These include mandatory compliance with non-pharmaceutical intervention policies (e.g., mask and social distancing mandates), the privacy issues that arise in connection with compulsory contact tracing, and the just distribution of medical services.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Broad knowledge of ethical theory.
- Deep knowledge of three philosophical issues, all related to controversies recently spotlighted by the Covid-19 crisis.
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources.
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions.
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful written argumentation.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS, AND MATERIALS

You need to purchase only one text for this course: The Ethics of Pandemics, Meredith Celene Schwartz, Pub. July 23, 2020, ISBN: 9781554815449 / 1554815444. This is a short and affordable text that is available for purchase online, through the bookstore, or as an electronic Kindle edition.

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment Components and Grading Schemes The graded work for this course will consist of case studies and weekly guided discussion assignments to be submitted through D2L submission mechanisms. There is no grading for participation as such. Your participation is automatically factored into your grade by the requirement that you respond to others' discussion posts. I'm not a grammar Nazi, but you must submit work that is intelligible and coherent. Treat the following criteria as guides in your writing (of both case studies and discussion submissions). This is taken from the Berkeley Graduate Website at https://gsi.berkeley.edu/gsi-guide-contents/grading-intro/before-you-grade/criteria/

- A Range: Excellent exposition, clearly and concisely written, well-argued, and displaying good original input from the student.
- B Range: Good exposition, but lacks clarity and concision, or doesn't have much original input, or offers poor support for essential claims. (For instance, a genuinely excellent expository paper will earn you a B+; a fuzzy but accurate one will earn you a B-.
- C Range: Fails to understand some aspects of the material or is very unclearly written.
- D Range Very problematic in all aspects mentioned above
- F Range: Papers: did not submit a paper; crassly plagiarized material; made no effort to understand the material or read it.

The graded work consists of

- **Two to three** case studies spaced **evenly** throughout the semester (one after each of our three topics).
  - These are written up as papers (one-inch margins on all sides, 12-point Times New Roman font). However, they consist of sets of numbered questions, your answers to which must be copied and pasted into quiz answer boxes. Any citations should be formatted in Chicago style. You can find several Chicago-style guides online. Or, if you hate anal retentive academic style conventions as much as I do, you might check

out one of several commercial citation programs that you can purchase online.

- A decent length for these (your answers to all the questions posed, collectively) is three to four pages.
- Again, these papers are to be submitted through the D2L quiz function. They are not to be submitted as word or pdf documents through the drop box.
- Collectively, these are worth **50%** of the course grade.

- *Weekly* guided discussion assignments (each requiring a response of approximately a single page in length)*,* as well as substantive responses to *two* posts by other students (or another student).
    - These assignments are to be submitted through the D2L discussion assignment function.
    - Collectively, these assignments determine **50%** of the course grade.
    - Each week, your discussion contributions will be marked out of 10 points. Original discussion posts are worth a maximum of 6 points, each response can earn a maximum of 2 points. At most 2 responses will be marked.
    - Submit your original posts and replies in one of the six weekly discussion forums on D2L.

- ✓ There is no final exam.
- ✓ There is no single assignment that is itself essential to passing the course as a whole.
- ✓ All graded material is open book.
- ✓ Our grading scale will be a standard one: The A range starts at 90%, the B range starts at 80%, the C range starts at 70%, the D range starts at 60%, with appropriate plusses and minuses. More specifically, it looks like this: A+ 98, A 95, A– 92; ☙B+ 88, B 85, B– 82; ☙ C+ 78, C 75, C– 72; ☙ D+ 68, D 65, D– 62.
- ✓ Late Policy for discussion assignments and responses: -1 point every 24 hours.
- ✓ Late Policy for case studies: -5 points every 24 hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: June 27 – July 3:
- INTRODUCTORY LECTURE
- COMPLIANCE I (History and Dispute)
    - Disc. Assignment #1 original posting due by Saturday, July 10th at 11: 50 pm.
    - Disc. Assignment #1 responses due by Sunday, July 11th at 11:59.

Week 2: July 4 – July 10:
- COMPLIANCE II (Political Obligation)
- COMPLIANCE III (Conclusions and Recommendations)
    - Disc. #2 original posting due by Saturday, Friday 17th at 11:59.
    - Discussion Assignment #2 responses due by Sunday, July 18th at 11:59.
    - Case Study #1 due by Wednesday, 11:59 pm at July 21st.

Week 3: July 11 – July 17:
- PRIVACY I (History and Dispute),

- PRIVACY II (Digital and Legal Complications),
  - Disc. Assignment #3 original posting due by Saturday, July 24th at 11:59 pm.
  - Discussion Assignment #3 responses due by Sunday, July 25th at 11:59 pm.

Week 4: July 18 – July 24:
- PRIVACY III (The Pros and Cons of Privacy),
- PRIVACY IV (Why Do We Even Care?)
  - Disc. Assignment #4 original posting due by Saturday July 31st at 11:59 pm.
  - Discussion Assignment #4 esponses due by Sunday, August 1st at 11:59 pm.

Week 5: July 25 – July 31:
- PRIVACY V (Conclusions and Recommendations),
- JUSTICE I (History and Dispute),
  - Disc. Assignment #5 by Saturday, August 7th at 11:59 pm.
  - Disc. Assignment #5 Responses due by Sunday, August 8th at 11:59 pm.
  - Case Study #2 due by Wednesday, August 11th at 11:59.

Week 6: August 1 – August 7:
- JUSTICE II (What is It?),
- JUSTICE III (Conclusions, Recommendations)
  - Disc. Assignment #6 due by Sunday, August 14th at 11:59 pm,.
  - Discussion Assignment #6 responses due by Sunday, August 14th at 11:59 pm.

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.

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. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill 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 absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. 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.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at 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
Suppose you are a student in the Faculty of Arts. In that case, 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 for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have registration questions, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator 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.) and general clarity and organization. In addition, research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Required Technology
To successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:
- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates.
- A current and updated web browser.
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone, and webcam (for any consultations you might request).
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled.
- Broadband internet connection.
Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam and speaker.

Responsible Use of D2L
Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/. The

instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Media Recording
Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students:
https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty
Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is a grave 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.

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Conversely, 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

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. Therefore, 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-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).