

PHIL*2030-01
Philosophy of Medicine

Prof. K. Wendling

Fall 2011

Lecture: W 7-8:20 p.m., ROZH 103

Seminars: Th 10-11:20, MACK 236 (0101), MACK 235 (1012), MACK 228 (0103)

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Office hours: Tu 11-12, W 2:30-4, Th 2-3, and by appointment

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Course Description

This course considers some philosophical problems that arise in the practice of medicine. We begin with a brief look at the history and nature of medicine. During this section we discuss what counts as medical knowledge, as well as the role of medicine in promoting health and prolonging life spans. Next, we discuss the science, art and culture of medicine. Here we examine the extent to which medicine is a science and an art, and the effects of culture on medical practice. We then discuss the principles guiding health care provision in Canada, and some proposals for reforming Canada's health care system. After that, we turn to issues in clinical ethics. We examine the ground and scope of three principles that underlie ethical decision-making in medicine – autonomy, beneficence and justice. Then we turn to cases in medical ethics, using the principles to help us evaluate different courses of action in those situations. We also consider some issues in veterinary ethics, discussing the similarities and differences between ethics involving humans and ethics involving animals. At the end of the course, you should be better equipped to evaluate philosophical arguments, to develop your own reasoned positions on some philosophical issues in human and veterinary medicine, and to express your views clearly, both orally and in writing.

Required Texts

- Hébert, *Doing Right*, 2nd edition
- some readings on Courselink and on reserve at the Library

Course Requirements

1. A statement of interest, due Wednesday, September 21, 10%, Pass/Fail
2. *Either*
 - a. the best 2 of 3 tests, 50% total
 - i. Test 1 (*required*) on Thursday, October 6 in your seminar room
 - ii. Test 2 on Wednesday, October 26 in ROZH 103
 - iii. Test 3 on Thursday, November 17 in your seminar room
 - or*
 - b. Test 1 + an essay, 50% total
 - i. Test 1 (*required*) on Thursday, October 6 in your seminar room
 - ii. Essay Outline due on Thursday, October 20, 10%, Pass/Fail
 - iii. Essay due on Wednesday, November 9
3. Participation, 15%
4. A final exam on Monday December 5, 8:30-10:30 a.m., 25%

How Pass/Fail assignments will be counted:

- Pass = the average of all your graded assignments (best of, participation & final)
- Fail = 0
- Late penalties for the statement of interest are 3% per day, to a maximum of 15%

Missed Tests and Late Assignments

Make-up tests will be given only if you have a note from your doctor or Program Counsellor.

There will be no extensions or late penalties on the essay outline. If you do not hand in the essay outline on October 20, you must do option 1a (best 2 of 3 tests).

Late essays will be penalized 3% per day, to a maximum of 15%. Essays will not be accepted after Wednesday, November 16 without a note from your doctor or Program Counsellor.

Readings and course material must be central to the analysis in your written work. Any work in which the relevant readings and course material are not central may be assigned a grade of zero.

I reserve the right to require an oral examination as part of any written piece of work. The oral examination counts for 67% of your grade on that assignment.

8 Standard Statements of the College of Arts, Fall 2011

E-mail Communication

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2011 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 3**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities which, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work – including lectures – cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA

Counseling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>