



PHIL*2030 Philosophy of Medicine

Fall 2018

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 06, 2018

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

Medicine is a philosophical, not merely a practical, empirical enterprise. This course covers philosophical concepts which are widely used to evaluate health and health-practices include: autonomy, consent, mind, will, rights, harm, fairness, dignity, truth and even 'health' itself. Issues central to health and health care practice include: the nature of professional-client relationships, genetic counseling, passive and active euthanasia, pharmacology and behaviour modification, resource allocation, and the special set of issues raised by reproductive technologies.

Pre-Requisite(s): 2.00 credits or (1 of PHIL*1000, PHIL*1010, PHIL*1050)

1.2 Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the philosophy of medicine with a special focus on some of the ethical issues that arise in health care practice. While previous experience with philosophy is helpful, it is not a prerequisite for success.

In the first few weeks we will examine ethical theory in general, and ethical theory in the medical context. In the remainder of the course we will explore a variety of philosophically and ethically contentious topics in health care, including: abortion, euthanasia, dementia and disability.

The material covered in this class is intended to give students an overview of some philosophical topics and quandaries that arise in the health care context. This course provides students with the foundational knowledge and skills for more advanced studies in health care ethics.

1.3 Timetable

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructor(s)

Shannon Buckley

Email:

sbuckley@uoguelph.ca

Office:

MCKN (in the office tower)

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resource(s)

Course Readings (Readings)

All readings for the course are available on CourseLink.

4 Learning Outcomes

Course Objectives: To provide an overview of philosophical issues in medicine.

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Apply, as well as critique, ethical approaches to health care practice.
 2. Critically assess strengths and weaknesses of ethical arguments
 3. Formulate and clearly defend their own claims regarding the topics addressed in the course
 4. Express views clearly and persuasively, both in writing and orally.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Method of Presentation: Lecture and discussion

Students will be expected to keep up with the weekly readings and come to class prepared to discuss the material covered.

5.1 Lecture

Fri, Sep 7

Topic(s):

Introduction to the course. No readings assigned.

Mon, Sep 10 - Fri, Sep 14

Topic(s): What is philosophy? What is philosophy of medicine? What is ethics?

Readings:

Pekka Louhiala. "Philosophy for Medical Students - Why, What, and How?"

Tom Regan. "How Not to Answer Moral Questions"

Mon, Sep 17 - Fri, Sep 21

Topic(s): Ethical Theory

Utilitarianism and Deontology

Readings:

John Stuart Mill "Utilitarianism"

Louis P. Pojman "Strengths and Weaknesses of Utilitarianism"

Immanuel Kant "The Categorical Imperative"

Onora O'Neill "A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics"

Mon, Sep 24 - Fri, Sep 28

Topic(s): Ethical Theory (continued)

Virtue Theory and Ethics of Care

Readings:

Juia Driver "Virtue Ethics"

Virginia Held "The Ethics of Care"

Mon, Oct 1 - Fri, Oct 5

Topic(s): Medical Ethics

Readings

Thomas Beauchamp "The Four Principles Approach to Health Care Ethics"

"The Belmont Report"

"Hungry Aboriginal People Used in Bureaucrats' Experiments"
CBC

Tuskegee Syphilis Study

****Case Study Assigned****

Wed, Oct 10 - Fri, Oct 12

Topic(s):

NO CLASS October 8th

Patient Autonomy and Consent

Readings:

Benjamin Freedman "A Moral Theory of Consent"

Christine Grady "Enduring and Emerging Issues of Informed Consent"

Lorraine Code "The Myth of the Individual"

Mon, Oct 15 - Fri, Oct 19

Topic(s):

Reproductive Ethics

Readings:

Julian Savulescu "Procreative Beneficence: Why We Should Select the Best Children"

Inmaculada de Melo-Martin "On Our Obligation to Select the Best Children: A Reply to Savulescu"

Case Study Due October 19th

Mon, Oct 22 - Fri, Oct 26

Topic(s):

Abortion

Readings:

Don Marquis "Why Abortion is Immoral"

Judith Jarvis Thomson "A Defense of Abortion"

Rosalind Hursthouse "Virtue Theory and Abortion"

Mon, Oct 29 - Fri, Nov 2

Topic(s):

Brain Death

Organ Donation

Readings:

Robert Truog "Is it Time to Abandon Brain Death?"

Dominic Wilkinson and Julian Savulescu "Should We Allow Organ Donation Euthanasia?"

Mon, Nov 5 - Fri, Nov 9

Topic(s):

Euthanasia

Readings:

Peter Singer "Voluntary Euthanasia: A Utilitarian Account"

Joseph Raz "Death in Our Life"

Case Study: Tracy Latimer

Essay Assigned

Mon, Nov 12 - Fri, Nov 16

Topic(s):

Disability

Readings:

Sara Goering "You Say You're Happy But..."

Janet Malek "Deciding Against Disability"

Christopher Newell "Disability, Bioethics, and Rejected Knowledge"

Mon, Nov 19 - Fri, Nov 23

Topic(s): Dementia and Advance Directives

Readings:

Hilde Lindemann "Holding on to Edmund: The Relational Work of Identity"

David Degrazia "Advance Directives, Dementia, and the Someone Else Problem"

Rebecca Dresser "Dworkin on Dementia: Elegant Theory, Questionable Policy"

Essay Due November 21

Mon, Nov 26 - Fri, Nov 30

Topic(s): To Be Determined

5.2 THANKSGIVING

Oct. 8: THANKSGIVING; no class

6 Assessments

Method of Evaluation:

Online quizzes. Best 8 out of 10. 20%

Case Study. 800-1000 words. 25%

Essay. 800-10000 25%

Final exam. 30%

6.1 Assessment Details

Online Quizzes (20%)

Case Study (25%)

Due: Wed, Oct 17

Essay (25%)

Due: Wed, Nov 21

Final Examination (30%)

Due: Fri, Dec 7, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM, room TBA

6.2 Information about the Course and Assignments

Late essays will be penalized 3% per day.

7 Course Statements

7.1 Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

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

8.2 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. The regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#) are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

8.3 Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

8.4 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.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

8.6 Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

8.8 Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.
