

University of Guelph
PHIL 2030-01: Philosophy of Medicine
Winter 2014
LEC MWF 9:30-10:20
MACK 117

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Office Hours:

Monday 1100-1200
(Other times by appointment)

Contemporary medicine acts like a gravitational force, causing Ethics, Religion, Commerce and Law to collide with Vanity, Convenience, Greed and Fear. Such collisions are bound to produce sparks. In Philosophy of Medicine we will study those sparks, and examine such issues as Abortion, Prenatal screening, mental health, Genetic selection and modification, and animal and human experimentation. Active student participation is essential to the course, though these and many more issues will certainly stimulate animated debate. Ethical theory and Critical Thinking will be studied in the first few weeks of the course.

Required Text:

Hébert, Philip C. *Doing Right* 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press

Course Evaluation:

Assignment #1	4-6 pages (roughly 1000-1500 words)	25%
Assignment#2	6-8 pages (roughly 1500-2000 words)	35%
Final Exam	Essay question(s)	40%

Standard Statement W2014

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 Winter 2014 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, March 7, 2014**. 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 that involve, 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 Counselling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>

Lecture Schedule (subject to change)

January

General overview of value theory, including a basic overview of the main branches of philosophy (i.e. metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and aesthetics).

February

Understanding the Four Biomedical Ethical Principles

Week 1 (February 3, 5, 7)

Autonomy and Beneficence

Reading: *Doing Right* chapters: 2 & 5

Week 2 (February 10, 12, 15)

Non-maleficence and Justice

Reading: *Doing Right* chapters: 7 & 9

Recommended reading: Syphilis Study at Tuskegee; Hungry Aboriginal People Used in Bureaucrats' Experiments; Administering Colonial Science. (Posted on CourseLink under Resources)

Week 3 (February 17, 19, 21)

Reading Week – no classes

Week 4 (February 24, 26, 28)

*****Assignment 1 due in class February 24th.*****

Reproductive Health

Readings:

O'Neill. *'Reproductive autonomy' and new technologies*. (CourseLink)

Savulescu. *Procreative beneficence: why we should select the best children*. (CourseLink)

De Melo-Martin. *On our obligation to select the best children: a reply to Savulescu*. (CourseLink)

March

Week 1 (March 3, 5, 7)

Reproductive Health (Continued)

Readings:

Marquis. *Why Abortion is Immoral*. (CourseLink)

Sinnott-Armstrong. *You Can't Lose What You Ain't Never Had: a Reply to Marquis on Abortion*. (CourseLink)

Thomson. *A Defense of Abortion*. (CourseLink)

Warren. *On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion*. (CourseLink)

Week 2 (March 10, 12, 14)

Death – cardiopulmonary death, brain death, higher brain death

Readings:

Bernat et al. *On the Definition and Criterion of Death*. (CourseLink)

Truog. *Is it Time to Abandon Brain Death?* (CourseLink)

Fisher. *Re-examining Death: Against a Higher Brain Criterion*. (CourseLink)

Week 3 (March 17, 19, 21)

Euthanasia – ‘do I have the right to die when and how I choose?’

Readings:

Singer. *Voluntary Euthanasia: a utilitarian account*. (CourseLink)

Raz. *Death in Our Life*. (CourseLink)

Dresser. *Schiavo’s Legacy: the need for an objective standard*. (CourseLink)

Week 4 (March 24, 26, 28)

Advance Directives and Dementia

Readings:

Degrazia. *Advance Directives, Dementia, and ‘the Someone Else Problem’* (CourseLink)

Dresser. *Dworkin on Dementia*. (CourseLink)

Furberg. *Advance Directives and Personal Identity: what is the problem?* (CourseLink)

April

Week 1 (March 31, April 2, 4)

Course wrap-up