

University of Guelph
Department of Philosophy
PHIL*2030-01, Philosophy of Medicine
MWF 1:30-2:20, LA 204

Prof. K. Wendling

Fall 2013

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Office hours: MW 2:30-3:20, Tu 4-5, 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 medical ethics – 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

- Best four of five tests, 80% total (see Schedule);
- A final assignment due on Monday, December 2, 20%

All assignments in this course are open-book and open-note.

The Gradebook on Courselink will contain an item called Tests, with five possible entries. It will show that you have a zero for one test grade if you write four tests. Don't worry. I set up the Gradebook to choose the best four of the five grades, so that zero will be dropped.

If you want comments on your test, put "Comments" (without the quotation marks) at the top of your test.

Tests without comments normally will be returned in a week. Tests with comments normally will be returned in two weeks.

Missed Tests and Late Assignments

Late tests will be penalized 10% per hour, beginning at 2:20 p.m. on the test date.

Make-up tests will be given only if you have 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. In that case, the oral examination counts for 75% of your grade on that assignment.

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 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is Thursday October 31. 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>

PHIL*2030-01, Philosophy of Medicine
Schedule of Classes and Readings

[C] = on Content page of Courselink; [L] = on Links page of Courselink; [I] = instructions posted on the Content page of Courselink; [R] = on reserve at the Library; Hébert = *Doing Right*, by Philip Hébert

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics & Assignments</u>	<u>Readings</u>
F Sep. 6	Introduction	
M Sep. 9 W Sep. 11 F Sep. 13	History & Nature of Medicine	Avoiding Plagiarism; Penalties; Test 1 W11 & Sample A's [C]
M Sep. 16 W Sep. 18 F Sep. 20	Social Determinants of Health Test 1	SDH 1, 2, & 3 [L]; Abbreviations; Grading [C]
M Sep. 23 W Sep. 25 F Sep. 27	Medicine: Science, Art, & Culture	Kaptchuk [R]; Allchin; Payer [I]
M Sep. 30 W Oct. 2 F Oct. 4	Principles of Health Care in Canada Test 2	Overview; Interpretation; Romanow [L]
M Oct. 7 W Oct. 9 F Oct. 11	Ethics & Principles of Medical Ethics Autonomy	Hébert, intro & ch. 1 Hébert, ch. 2
M Oct. 14 W Oct. 16 F Oct. 18	Thanksgiving – No Class Autonomy Test 3	
M Oct. 21 W Oct. 23 F Oct. 25	Confidentiality, Truth, & Deception	Hébert, chs. 3-4
M Oct. 28 W Oct. 30 F Nov. 1	Consent, Competence, & Incompetence Test 4	Hébert, chs. 5 & 6
M Nov. 4 W Nov. 6 F Nov. 8	Beneficence, Professionalism, & Error	Hébert, chs. 7 & 8; TBA
M Nov. 11 W Nov. 13 F Nov. 15	Veterinary Ethics Test 5	Tannenbaum, chs. 1, 2, 4, & 10 [R]
M Nov. 18 W Nov. 20 F Nov. 22	Children & Animals Justice	TBA Hébert, ch. 9
M Nov. 25 W Nov. 27 Th Nov. 28	Beginning & End of Life wrap-up	Hébert, chs. 10-11