

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**PHIL*2030-01, Philosophy of Medicine
Tu Th 4-5:20, MacKinnon 117**

Prof. K. Wendling

Winter 2011

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3 and 5:30-6, and by appointment

TA: Brian Rogers, rogersb@uoguelph.ca; office hours Tuesdays 2:30-3:30, MacKinnon 357

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. The goal of the course is to introduce you to philosophical issues in medicine at the levels of practice, policy and principles. 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 the Content and Links pages of Courselink

some readings on reserve at the Library

Course Requirements

The best 2 of the following 3 tests:

Test 1 on Tuesday, February 1, 33%

Test 2 on Tuesday, March 1, 33%

Test 3 on Thursday, March 24, 33%

A final exam on Wednesday, April 20, 11:30-1:30, 34%

Missed Tests and Other Threats

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. The oral examination counts for 66.7% of your grade on that assignment.

Seven Standard Statements – College of Arts, Winter 2011

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> email account regularly: email 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 2011 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, March 11th**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08drop.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.

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/c08amisconduct.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/>