University of Guelph tagline

PHIL\*2030 01 - Philosophy of Medicine

Term: Fall 2023

Section(s): 01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

# Course Details

## 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 that 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.

**Prerequisite(s):** 2.00 credits or (1 of [PHIL\*1000](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/search/?P=PHIL*1000), [PHIL\*1010](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/search/?P=PHIL*1010), [PHIL\*1050](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/search/?P=PHIL*1050))

**Department(s):** Department of Philosophy

**Location(s):** Guelph

## Detailed Course Description

In this course we will examine theories, concepts and issues in the philosophy of medicine, including Indigenous and alternative perspectives on healing. The topic provides a rich source of ethical issues to examine and analyze and case studies will supplement the lecture content to demonstrate the relevance of the topic to our society and our own lives.

Beginning with an overview of the main ethical positions and theories, we will then continue our examination of the topic through conceptual analyses of key concepts and theories embedded in the development and practice of medicine. Examining the underlying reasoning and logic of medical research and practice will assist us in evaluating our understanding of disease, diagnoses, treatments and the experiences of those involved throughout the related processes embedded within medical institutions and practices. Finally, students will be provided with an opportunity to perform their own in-depth research and philosophical analysis of an ethical issue related to philosophy of medicine of their choosing (on approval of the instructor).

The course will proceed through class lecture and discussion and will culminate in a philosophical paper that examines a particular ethical *issue* related to philosophy of medicine. An annotated bibliography and brief presentation on an outline for the final paper/project (10 mins) will also allow us to comment on and encourage each other’s work as it progresses. All readings for this course will be provided online (book chapters and journal articles).

## Timetable

Lecture: Tuesday/Thursday from 2:30-3:50 pm. Please consult Courselink for the classroom location.

## Final Exam

A final paper, instead of a final exam, will due on the last day of scheduled classes for the semester (Thursday, November 30, 2023).

# Instructional Support

Instructor: See WebAdvisor for instructor information.

Email: See WebAdvisor for instructor information.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-2pm

### Teaching Assistants:

Name: Brady Fullerton

Email: bfullert@uoguelph.ca

Office Hours: TBA

# Resources

Required Textbook: Thompson, R. P., & Upshur, R. E. G. (2018). Philosophy of medicine: An introduction. Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-50109-5

Other required and/or recommended readings will be available through the course website in pdf format (see schedule).

# Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe key theories, models and concepts in the philosophy of medicine;
2. Explain perspectives, assumptions and approaches such as materialism, probability and causality, etc. in the practice of medicine;
3. Analyze ethical and practical issues in medicine related to clinical practice;
4. Differentiate and critically evaluate varieties of modern medicine and alternative medicine, as well as Indigenous views and practices of healing;
5. Research, compose and produce a substantial philosophical essay on an issue related to the philosophy of medicine;
6. Demonstrate ability to perform a conceptual analysis using organizational and analytical skills

# Teaching and Learning Activities

## Lectures, Readings and Assessments

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| --- | --- |
| Date | Content |
| Week 1, Sept. 7 | Topic: Introduction to the course: Ethics, medicine, and philosophy of medicine  Reading: none  Assessment: none |
| Week 2,  Sept. 12, 14 | Topic: Health, disease and medicine: Concepts and theories  Reading: Text Chapters 1 and 2  Assessment: None |
| Week 3,  Sept. 19, 21 | Topic: Theories and models in medicine  Reading: Text Ch. 3  Assessment: Quiz 1 (5%) |
| Week 4,  Sept. 26, 28 | Topic: Materialism and Reductionism in Medicine.  Reading: Text Ch. 4  Assessment: Short concept paper (15% on the 28th) |
| Week 5,  Oct. 3, 5 | Topic: Probability and randomness, causality and induction in medicine.  Reading: Text Chapters 5 & 6  Assessment: Quiz 2 (5%) |
| Week 6, Oct. 12 ONLY | Assessment only: MIDTERM 20% (online, CourseLink, Oct. 12)  No lecture or reading assigned |
| Week 7,  Oct. 17, 19 | Topic: Reasoning in clinical practice: Prevention, diagnosis, therapy, prognosis, palliation and rehabilitation.  Reading: Text Ch. 9  Assessment: None |
| Week 8,  Oct. 24, 26 | Topic: Medicine from first person perspectives: Phenomenology, narrative of knowledge and qualitative approaches to knowledge creation and use in medicine.  Reading: Text Ch. 10, Supplemental reading from Rediger, J. 2020. Cured. Flatiron Books, Ch. 10. (provided within Courselink)  Assessment: Quiz 3 (5%) |
| Week 9,  Oct. 31, Nov. 2 | Topic: Indigenous forms and conceptions of medicine and healing.  Reading: Readings from Ross, R., Indigenous healing: Exploring traditional paths and Young, Rogers and Willier, A Cree healer and his medicine bundle: Revelations of Indigenous wisdom. (Provided in Courselink)  Assessment: Outline and Bibliography Due (10%) |
| Week 10,  Nov. 7, 9 | Topic: Neurosciences and Diseases of the mind.  Reading: Text, Ch. 11  Assessment: Quiz 4 (5%) |
| Week 11,  Nov. 14, 16 | Topic: The Varieties of modern medicine: Evolutionary medicine, evidence-based medicine, alternative medicine.  Reading: Text, Ch. 12 and other supplemental reading in Courselink  Assessment: None |
| Week 12a,  Nov. 21, 23 | Topic: The Varieties of modern medicine: Managing epidemics, vaccinations and social justice issues related to access to medicine  Reading: Text, Ch. 12 and other supplemental readings in Courselink  Assessment: Quiz 5 (5%) |
| Week 12b,  Nov. 28, 30 (makeup days from Sept. and Oct.) | Topic: Conclusion, final paper  Reading: None  Assessment: Final Paper due Nov. 30th |

# Assessments

The requirement for assessments is “assessment information including methods, breakdown (% of grade), specific due dates, and alignment to course learning outcomes”

**Example**

1. Midterm (20%)
   1. Date: Oct. 12th, 90 minutes online through Courselink
   2. Description: Content covered will include everything from the 1st day of class until Oct. 5th. The format will include multiple choice, true/false and two short answer questions.
2. Written assignments and essays (55%)
   1. Essay #1 Concept Paper (15%):
      1. Due Date: Sept. 28th
      2. Description: A 3-4 page conceptual analysis of any concept covered in the course materials from the lectures/readings in weeks 1-4.
   2. Essay outline and bibliography (10%):
      1. Due Date: Nov. 2nd
      2. Description: A 1-2 page document providing your choice of topic, issue and thesis statements, outline of key points and preliminary research for your final paper
   3. Final Essay (30%):
      1. Due Date: Nov. 30th
      2. Description: Full final paper (~8 pages) based on submitted essay outline and bibliography
3. Quizzes (25%)
   1. Date: Sept. 21st, Oct. 5th, Oct. 26th, Nov. 9th, Nov. 23rd
   2. Description: Each quiz will include 10-15 multiple choice and true/false questions covering the materials since the previous quiz

# Late Policy

All written work will be deducted 2% per day after the due date, to a maximum of 7 days, after which it will receive a grade of zero. Please contact Instructor with any extension requests that can be supported with appropriate documentation as early as possible before the due date.

# University Standard Statements

## Email 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses [https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08- drop.shtml](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-%20drop.shtml)

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes [https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg- regchg.shtml](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-%20regchg.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.

## 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 make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer).

Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

More information: [www.uoguelph.ca/sas](http://www.uoguelph.ca/sas)

## 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct [https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08- amisconduct.shtml](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-%20amisconduct.shtml)

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## 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.

## 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.

## Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via Courselink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/) and circulated by email.

## Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

## COVID-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

* [https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your- safe-return/](https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-%20safe-return/)
* <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, that these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.