



# PHIL\*2030 Philosophy of Medicine

Fall 2020

Section(s): 01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 14, 2020

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## 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 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.

**Pre-Requisites:** 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

Take home exam

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## 2 Instructional Support

### 2.1 Instructional Support Team

<b>Instructor:</b>	Shannon Buckley
<b>Email:</b>	sbuckley@uoguelph.ca
<b>Office:</b>	MCKN (in the office tower)

### 2.2 Teaching Assistants

<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Gennady McCracken
<b>Email:</b>	gmccrack@uoguelph.ca
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Molly Graham
<b>Email:</b>	mgraha14@uoguelph.ca

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## 3 Learning Resources

### 3.1 Required Resources

#### Course Readings (Readings)

Doing Right: a practical guide to ethics for medical trainees and physicians (4th edition) / Philip C. Hébert & Wayne Rosen

Other readings available on CourseLink.

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## 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:** asynchronous remote learning.

Students are expected to keep up with the weekly readings.

3 drop-in synchronous classes (times to be announced)

### 5.1 Lecture

**Mon, Sep 14 - Fri, Sep 18**

**Topics:** What is philosophy? What is philosophy of medicine? What is ethics?

**Readings:**

Tom Regan. "How Not to Answer Moral Questions"

**Mon, Sep 21 - Fri, Sep 25**

**Topics:** Setting the stage

**Readings:**

Doing Right 4th ed. / Hébert

Chapter 1 & 2

**Mon, Sep 28 - Fri, Oct 2**

**Topics:** Setting the stage

**Readings:**

Doing Right 4th ed. / Hébert

Chapter 3

**Mon, Oct 5 - Fri, Oct 9**

**Topics:**

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 14 - Fri, Oct 16**

**Topics:**

Patient Autonomy and Consent

**Readings:**

Doing Right 4th ed. / Hébert

Chapter 4 & 5

Lorraine Code "The Myth of the Individual"

**Mon, Oct 19 - Fri, Oct 23**

**Topics:** 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 23rd\*\*\*

**Mon, Oct 26 - Fri, Oct 30**

**Topics:** Abortion

**Readings:**

Don Marquis "Why Abortion is Immoral"

Judith Jarvis Thomson "A Defense of Abortion"

Rosalind Hursthouse "Virtue Theory and Abortion"

**Mon, Nov 2 - Fri, Nov 6**

**Topics:** 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 9 - Fri, Nov 13**

**Topics:** Euthanasia

**Readings:**

Peter Singer "Voluntary Euthanasia: A Utilitarian Account"

Joseph Raz "Death in Our Life"

Case Study: Tracy Latimer

\*\*\*Essay Assigned\*\*\*

**Mon, Nov 16 - Fri, Nov 20**

**Topics:** Disability

**Readings:**

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

Janet Malek "Deciding Against Disability"

Christopher Newell "Disability, Bioethics, and Rejected Knowledge"

**Mon, Nov 23 - Fri, Nov 27**

**Topics:** 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 25\*\*\*

**Mon, Nov 30 - Fri, Dec 4**

**Topics:** Tying up loose ends!

Discussion of Final Exam.

## 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 21, 11:59 PM

#### Essay (25%)

**Due:** Wed, Nov 25, 11:59 PM

#### Take Home Final Examination (30%)

**Due:** Mon, Dec 14, 11:59 PM

### 6.2 Information about the Course and Assignments

Late essays will be penalized 3% per day.

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## 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 grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

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>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### 8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. 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>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg->



regchg.shtml

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

## 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.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 8.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## **8.7 Recording of Materials**

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, 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 that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

## **8.9 Disclaimer**

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

## **8.10 Illness**

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.

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