
Syllabus: **PHILOSOPHY 2396B, Bioethics**

Instructor: Dean Wm. Lauer, Ph.D.
Office Hours: DMS 8113, Tuesdays 16h15 – 17h45
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There are in fact, two things: science and opinion; the former begets knowledge, the latter ignorance.
~ Hippocrates

Additional Help:

- PHI2396 B course leader: Martin Goldstein, mgold080@uottawa.ca + David Girard, dgira084@uottawa.ca
- Student Academic Success Service (SASS) – www.sass.uottawa.ca
- Philosophy tutors, 125B Simard - www.arts.uottawa.ca/eng/mentoring/tutors

Content/Subject Matter:

From the course description approved by Senate, we “[s]tudy of moral issues in medical research and health care. Possible topics include human and animal experimentation; the rights and duties of health professionals and patients; euthanasia, abortion, reproductive technologies, genetic screening; funding and allocation decisions. Role of moral theories and concepts in addressing these problems.”

In this course, we find no definitive answers but only raise questions and entertain scenarios in light of the moral traditions we cover. Our objective is to become more informed and sensitive to moral issues in biology.

Teaching Method:

The teaching format for a large course such as this will consist of lectures and documentary videos. Student participation, while not required, is appreciated.

Aristotle tells us that all philosophy (knowledge of the world) begins with a sense of wonder. As such, fostering an interest in the ideas presented is a better strategy for learning and success than studying for a grade.

Textbook (required):

Bioethics in Canada: A Philosophical Introduction, 2nd Edition (CSPI: August 2015), 570pp, Paperback, ISBN-13: 9781551307237 = \$75.15

- Available at The Agora Bookstore and Internet Café, <http://www.agorabookstore.ca/FALL15/PHI2396B>
Telephone: 613-56-AGORA (613-562-4672)

Course Structure/Marking:

- Exam one: 2 October = 25% / Cheating leads to automatic failure of exam.
- Exam two: 23 October = 25% / No billed hats/caps are permitted on exam days.
- Final exam: December? = 50% / Please write in pen!

Depending on teaching assistant assignments, exams may take up to two weeks to be returned. Marked exams can be reviewed in rare cases. Keep in mind that according to section 10.3. (Revision of Grades and Appeals) of the Regulations for Undergraduate Studies “[the revised grade can be higher than, lower than or equal to the grade submitted for review.” Unfortunately, there are NO extra credit possibilities.

Everyone must write the final.

Exams may also be written in French.

Observe:

I have three courses of this size this term. As such, I cannot answer e-mails regarding content that is redundant here and from class.

All students at this university are obliged contractually to follow the Regulations for Undergraduate Studies, specifically concerning honesty (<http://www.uottawa.ca/about/academic-regulation-14-other-important-information>). Please do not attend class if you are going to talk to your neighbours.

Course Calendar (all readings refer to the required text):

Week 37/11 September	Introduction and course overview
Wk. 38/18 Sept.	Chapter 1: Ethical Theory + video (<i>Can Rules define Morality?</i>)
Wk. 39/25 Sept.	Chapter 2: Distributive Justice
Wk. 40/October 2	EXAM
Wk. 41/Oct. 9	Chapter 3: The Health Care Professional-Patient Relationship
Wk. 42/Oct. 16	Chapter 4: Medical Research + video (<i>Clinical research and the Cold War</i>)
Wk. 43/Oct. 23	EXAM
Wk. 44/Oct. 30	Reading Week!
Wk. 45/November 6	Chapter 5: Reproductive Technologies + video (<i>Designer Babies: Dangers of Corp .</i>)
Wk. 47/Nov.20	Chapter 7: Abortion and Maternal-Fetal Conflicts Last day to withdraw from a course/activity (including full year courses) with no financial credit.
Wk. 48/Nov.27	Chapter 8: Death and Dying + video (<i>Euthanasia</i>)
Wk. 49/December 4	Chapter 9: Organs and Tissues: Procurement and Transplantation
Final Examination	To be announced here: https://web3.uottawa.ca/examtimetable/main.do#goTop