

PHIL 226 Winter 2012 Biomedical Ethics

Instructor: Dr. Eric Hochstein

Office Hours (HH 362): Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00 pm; and by appointment

Email: eghochst@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca

Time: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00PM–2:20PM

Place: HH 1101

TAs: Tracy Finn (tfinn@uwaterloo.ca)

Amanda Plain: (aplain@uwaterloo.ca)

Textbook: Eike-Henner W. Kluge, Ed., (2005) *Readings in Biomedical Ethics: A Canadian Focus* (3rd edition). Pearson Prentice Hall.

Description: An examination of ethical issues in the health sciences, such as the patient-doctor relationship, reproductive rights, genetic engineering, allocation of medical resources, and end of life decisions.

Structure: The course comprises two lectures (90 min) per week. The course will proceed primarily through lectures and discussions.

Evaluation: The course will be graded as follows:

- 2 graded term papers, worth 15%, and 25%;
- A mid-term examination worth 25%;
- A final examination worth 35%

The term papers are due in class, **in hard copy**, on the announced deadlines; **late submissions cannot be accepted**.

Important to Note: It is expected that students will prepare for and attend class regularly. Students are encouraged to consult the instructor with any problems or concerns about the course **early** in the semester.

Tentative Schedule of Readings:

Week 1: Introduction

No readings required for this week

Week 2: What is Health?

Read pages 23-46 of textbook

Week 3: Health Care and the Distribution of Resources

Read pages 91-112 of textbook

January 17th: **Term Paper 1 Assigned**

Week 4: Consent and the Competent Patient
January 26th: **Term Paper 1 Due (first deadline)**
Read pages 157-177 of textbook

Week 5: Consent and the Incompetent Patient
Read pages 186-198 of textbook
January 31st: **Term Paper 1 Due (extended deadline)**
February 2nd: **Class Cancelled**

Week 6: Personhood
Read pages 289-309 of textbook

Week 7: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia
Read pages 364-374 of textbook for this class
February 16th: **Mid-Term Exam**

Week 8: Reading Week
February 21st: **No Class**
February 23rd: **No Class**

Week 9: Abortion
Read “Why Abortion is Immoral” by Don Marquis:
<http://faculty.polytechnic.org/gfeldmeth/45.marquis.pdf>
Read “A Defence of Abortion” by Judith Jarvis Thomson:
<http://spot.colorado.edu/~heathwoo/Phil160,Fall02/thomson.htm>

Week 10: Genetic Engineering and Prenatal Screening
Read “Questions About Some Uses of Genetic Engineering” by Jonathan Glover:
<http://webteach.mccs.uky.edu/Bioethics/Genetic%20Engineering%20by%20Glover.pdf>
March 6th: **Term Paper 2 Assigned**

Week 11: The Right to Have Children
Read pages 406-418 of textbook for this class
“Licensing Parents” by Hugh LaFollette:
<http://www.hughlafollette.com/papers/lic-par.htm>

Week 12: Experimentation With Animals
Read “All Animals Are Equal” by Peter Singer:
<http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-m/singer02.pdf>
March 20th: **Term Paper 2 Due (first deadline)**

Week 13: Confidentiality
Read “Confidentiality in Medicine: A Decrepit Concept” by Mark Siegler:
<http://webteach.mccs.uky.edu/Bioethics/Confidentiality%20A%20Decrepit%20Concept.pdf>
March 27th: **Term Paper 2 Due (extended deadline)**

Note on Avoidance of Academic Offenses:

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, it will be acknowledged by disciplinary penalties. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p.1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid academic offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

The following is extracted from Policy 71:

“Academic offenses include ... Plagiarism, which is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one’s own. The use of other people’s work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written essays, laboratory reports, work-term reports, design projects, statistical data, computer programs and research results. The properly acknowledged use of sources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without complete and unambiguous acknowledgment, however, is an offense under this policy.”

Note for students with disabilities:

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.