

**PHIL 321 A01 - Fall 2020**  
**Philosophy of Medicine**

**\*Please note: This is only a tentative course syllabus. It may change prior to the start of classes in September 2020**

**Instructor:** Eric Hochstein

**CRN:** 12452

**Time:** TBD

**Place:** Due to COVID 19, this course will be entirely online. It will be an **asynchronous** course, meaning that all course lectures given during scheduled course time will be recorded and made available through the course website.

**Office Hours:** TBD

**Email:** ehochstein@uvic.ca

**Description:** This class will be a philosophical examination of the nature and goals of medicine as field, as well as its practices. Topics covered include: Is medicine a part of science? What is health? What counts as disease? What is mental illness? What is the relationship between genetics and health?

**Structure:** The course will proceed primarily through online lectures. Readings for the class will all be uploaded onto the course website.

**Intellectual property of materials on the LMS website:** Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the LMS website are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity ([https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies)). Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

**Evaluation:** The course will be graded as follows:

- 1 mid-term, worth 25%
- 2 term papers worth 20% each
- A final examination worth 35%.

**Policy on assignments, tests, and term papers:** Late papers will receive a deduction of 5% per day until handed in. Any exam missed without documentation of illness or family emergency will receive a 0.

**Important to Note:** Students are encouraged to consult the instructor with any problems or concerns about the course **early** in the semester.

**Grading System:**

Percentages	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90 – 100	A+	9
85 – 89	A	8
80 – 84	A-	7

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically **superior**, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students

77 – 79	B+	6
73 – 76	B	5
70 – 72	B-	4

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a **good** comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.

65 – 69	C+	3
60 – 64	C	2

A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an **adequate** comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities

50 – 59	D	1
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A D is earned by work that indicates **minimal** command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

0 – 49	F	0
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F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is **inadequate** and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see pp. 51-53 of the most recent (September 2018) edition of the Uvic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations (pp. 49-51 of the calendar).

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar (p. 15), but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Tentative Schedule of Readings:**

#### Week 1 (Sep 9-11): Introduction

No readings

#### Week 2 (Sep 14-18): What Does it Mean to be Healthy?

Readings:

- Boorse, "Health as a theoretical concept"
- Kingma, "What is it to be Healthy"

#### Week 3: (Sep 21-25): What is Disease?

Readings:

- Ereshefsky, "Defining 'Health' and 'Disease'."

#### Week 4 (Sep 28-Oct 2): Is There a Genetic Basis for Disease?

Readings:

- Juengst, "Concepts of Disease After the Human Genome Project"

#### Week 5 (Oct 5-9): Epigenetics and the Arguments Against Genetic Determinism

#### **Midterm 1: Oct 9**

Readings:

- Strohman, "Genetic Determinism as a Failing Paradigm in Biology and Medicine."

#### Week 6 (Oct 13-16): Phenomenology and Well Being

Readings:

- Carel, “Can I be Ill and Happy?”

Week 7 (Oct 19-23): The Implications of Evidence-Based Medicine

**Term Paper Assigned Oct 23**

Readings:

- Guyatt, Cook, & Haynes, “Evidence based medicine has come a long way”
- Worrall, “Evidence: Philosophy of Science Meets Medicine”

Week 8 (Oct 26-30): Is Medicine Part of Science?

Readings:

- Munson, “Why Medicine Cannot be a Science”

Week 9 (Nov 2-6): Mental Health & Psychiatric Classifications

**Midterm 2: Nov 6th**

Readings:

- Luhrmann, Padmavati, Tharoor & Osei, “Differences in voice-hearing experiences of people with psychosis in the USA, India and Ghana: interview-based study”
- Murphy, “Deviant deviance: Cultural diversity in DSM-5”

Week 10 (Nov 9-13): Disease versus Disease Risk

Readings:

- Welch & Black, "Overdiagnosis in Cancer"

Week 11 (Nov 16-20): The Replication Crisis in Medicine

**Term Paper Due Nov 20th**

Readings:

- Begley & Ellis, “Drug development: Raise standards for preclinical cancer research”
- Prinz, Schlange & Asadullah, “Believe it or not: How much can we rely on published data on potential drug targets?”

Week 12 (Nov 23-27): Medicine and Statistics

Readings:

- Gigerenzer, et. al., “Helping Doctors and Patients Make Sense of Health Statistics”

Week 13 (Nov 30-Dec 4): Spill Over and Review

No Readings

**Note on Avoidance of Academic Offenses:**

All students registered in the course are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, 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. 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. You can find the university's Policy on Academic Integrity here:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

If you are seeking editing help, please note that the university has recently adopted a strict view about seeking the help of others for editing. They say (this can be found in the link above):

An editor is an individual or service, other than the instructor or supervisory committee, who manipulates, revises, corrects or alters a student's written or non-written work.

The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. The instructor should specify the extent of editing that is being authorized. Review by fellow students and tutoring that do not include editing are normally permitted. In addition to consulting with their instructors, students are encouraged to seek review of and feedback on their work that prompts them to evaluate the work and make changes themselves.

**Note for students with disabilities:**

The Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>) is a fantastic resource that collaborates with all academic departments to help 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 them at the beginning of each academic term.