

PHIL 331 A01: Issues in Biomedical Ethics
Fall 2020 | CRN: 12454

This course is a survey in biomedical ethics. We will learn how to apply ethical theories and concepts to a range of ethical problems that arise in medical contexts, ranging from individual patients' decisions about their own medical care to ethical problems we face in public health and global contexts.

Note: This outline gives students a sense of what the course will involve, but it is not the final, official outline. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Instructor	Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)
Office Hours (by Zoom)	TBD and by appointment
Communication	You are welcome to attend my virtual office hours to chat about the course or philosophy any time. If you cannot make my office hours, email me to request an appointment. My pronouns are she/her; please feel free to let me know your name/pronoun preferences as well.
Website	Coming soon!
Course Format	This course is <i>asynchronous</i> , which means that you can work through the course material largely at your own pace. For each week in the course, there will be a checklist of tasks to complete. Students will complete readings, watch short lecture videos, and participate in discussion through the course website. Although it is your choice when, during the week, to complete each task, make sure that you have all of the items crossed off the list before the next week begins!
Readings	All readings will be available on the course website.

Evaluation:

Grading Scale¹	A (Superior performance)	A+: 90-100; A: 85-89; A-: 80-84
	B (Good performance)	B+: 77-79; B: 73-76; B-: 70-72
	C (Adequate performance)	C+: 65-69; C: 60-64
	D (Minimal performance)	50-59
	F (Inadequate performance)	0-49
Assignments² (Tentative)	Participation	10%
	Case Studies (x3)	30%
	Take-home Midterm	25%
	Blog Post	10%
	Take-home Final Exam	25%
Flexibility, Lateness, & Extensions	Please email me as soon as possible if you are facing challenges to completing course requirements by the due dates.	

¹ For further detail, see <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-05/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html>.

² Detailed instructions for all assignments will be posted on the course website.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are very welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individual or group work. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust, and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution

Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension.

It is your responsibility to understand the University's policy on academic integrity.³

Intellectual Property

Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the course 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.⁴ Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

Territory Acknowledgement: The University of Victoria is committed to acknowledging and respecting the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional territory the University stands and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. For information about support for Indigenous students and efforts to foster reconciliation, please visit the Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement.

³ For more information, see <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2012/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html>.

⁴ For more information, see <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html>.

Course Schedule (tentative and subject to change before the course begins):

Note: The lecture videos will be very short, so don't worry! The workload for this course will be no more than in person. You can think of each bullet as a task to check off for the week. Once you check off all the items on the list, you have completed the week's tasks for the course and are all caught up. Assignment due dates are TBD at this time.

Week 1: Introducing Ourselves & Welcome! (September 9-11)

- Watch video, *Welcome to the Course!*
- Read course syllabus
- Fill out Introductory Survey, *Getting to Know Students*
- *Optional:* join Zoom discussion (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- *Optional:* post questions you have for me on the "Introductory Q&A" discussion thread

Week 2: Medicine's Dark History & The Emergence of Bioethics (September 14-18)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read Paul Weindling et al, "The Victims of Unethical Human Experiments and Coerced Research under National Socialism"
- Watch YouTube video, *The Tuskegee Study*
 - Watch mini lecture, *The Need for Bioethics*
- Read handout, *The Emergence of Bioethics*
- *Optional:* join Zoom discussion (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 1 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 3: Ethical Theory (September 21-25)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read W. David Solomon, "Normative Ethical Theories"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Ethical Theory*
- Read Hilde Lindemann, "What is Feminist Ethics?"
 - Mini lecture, *Feminist Ethics and Feminist Bioethics*
- *Optional:* join Zoom discussion (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 2 by Friday, 11:59pm PST

Week 4: Principles of Bioethics & The Physician-Patient Relationship (September 28 – October 2)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read T.L. Beauchamp, "Methods and Principles in Biomedical Ethics"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Principles of Bioethics*
- Ezekiel Emmanuel and Linda Emmanuel, "Four Models of the Physician-Patient Relationship"
 - Watch mini lecture, *The Physician-Patient Relationship*
- *Optional:* join Zoom discussion (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 3 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 5: Autonomy & Informed Consent (October 5-9)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read Susan Sherwin, "A Relational Approach to Autonomy in Healthcare"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Autonomy*
- Read Benjamin Freedman, "A Moral Theory of Informed Consent"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Informed Consent*
- *Optional:* join Zoom discussion (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 4 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 6: Paternalism & Deception (October 13-16)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read Gerald Dworkin, "Defining Paternalism"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Paternalism*
- Charlotte Blease, "Deception as Treatment: The Case of Depression"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Deception*
- *Optional*: join Zoom discussion, (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 5 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 7: Surrogate Decision-Making (October 19-23)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read David Wendler, "The Theory and Practice of Surrogate Decision-Making"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Surrogate Decision-Making I*
- Read Hilde Lindemann and James Lindemann Nelson, "The Surrogate's Authority"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Surrogate Decision-Making II*
- *Optional*: join Zoom discussion, (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 6 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 8: Vulnerability & Trust (October 26-30)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Jackie Leach Scully, "Disability and Vulnerability: On Bodies, Dependence, and Power"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Vulnerability*
- Read Anita Ho, "Trusting Experts and Epistemic Humility in Disability"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Trust*
- *Optional*: join Zoom discussion, (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 7 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 9: Medical Decisions by & for Children (November 2-6)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read: Aliya O. Afddal and Vardit Ravitsky, "The Best Interest Standard and the Child's Right to an Open Future"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Children and Medical Decision Making*
- Maura Priest, "Transgender Children and the Right to Transition: Medical Ethics When Parents Mean Well but Cause Harm"
 - Watch mini lecture, *The Rights of Transgender Children*
- *Optional*: join Zoom discussion, (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 8 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 10: Reading Week (November 9-12)

No tasks to complete!

Week 11: Reproductive Ethics (November 16-20)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read Carolyn McLeod, "The Medical Nonnecessity of In Vitro Fertilization"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Reproductive Ethics and IVF*
- Read Martha Paynter and Francoise Baylis, "What Counts as Adequate Access to Abortion in a Pandemic? A Perspective from Canada"
 - Watch mini lecture, *The Ethics of Abortion*

- *Optional*: join Zoom discussion, (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 9 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 12: Medical Research & Bioethics in Uncertain Times (November 23-27)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read Angus Dawson et al, "Key Ethical Concepts and Their Application to COVID-19 Research"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Research Ethics and COVID-19*
- Andre Kalil, "Treating COVID-19—Off-Label Drug Use, Compassionate Use, and Randomized Clinical Trials During Pandemics"
 - Watch mini lecture, *Bioethics in Uncertain Times*
- *Optional*: join Zoom discussion, (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 10 by Friday, 11:59pm

Week 13: Contemporary Issues in Public Health Ethics (November 13 – December 4)

- Watch video, *Introductory Remarks*
- Read: Harald Schmidt, "Vaccine Rationing and the Urgency of Social Justice in the Covid-19 Response"
 - Watch mini lecture, *The Ethics of Vaccine Distribution*
- *Optional*: join Zoom discussion, (time TBD; recorded for students who cannot attend)
- Discussion thread, complete Q&A # 12 by Friday, 11:59pm