

PHIL 331 A01 - Spring 2021
Biomedical Ethics

***Please note: This is only a tentative course syllabus. It may change between now and the start of classes in January 2021**

Instructor: Eric Hochstein
CRN: 22295
Time: TBD
Place: TBD
Office Hours: TBD
Email: ehochstein@uvic.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 will proceed primarily through 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). 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:

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

Term Paper 1 Assigned

Read pages 91-112 of textbook

Week 4: Consent and the Competent Patient

Read pages 157-177 of textbook

Week 5: Consent and the Incompetent Patient

Read pages 186-198 of textbook

Week 6: Personhood

Read pages 289-309 of textbook

Term Paper 1 Due

Week 7: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

Read pages 364-374 of textbooks

Week 8: Abortion

Read “Why Abortion is Immoral” by Don Marquis

Read “A Defence of Abortion” by Judith Jarvis Thomson

Mid-Term Exam

Week 9: Genetic Engineering and Prenatal Screening

Read “Questions About Some Uses of Genetic Engineering” by Jonathan Glover

March 6th: **Term Paper 2 Assigned**

Week 10: The Right to Have Children

Read pages 406-418 of textbook for this class

Read “Licensing Parents” by Hugh LaFollette

Week 11: Experimentation With Animals

Read “All Animals Are Equal” by Peter Singer:

Week 12: Confidentiality

Read “Confidentiality in Medicine: A Decrepit Concept” by Mark Siegler:

Term Paper 2 Due

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.

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.