

PHIL 333 (001) – Biomedical Ethics
2017 – 18 Winter Term 1
Mon, Wed, Fri, 12:00 – 13:00
Food, Nutrition, and Health Building (FNH), room 60

Instructor: Bruno Guindon
Email: bruno.guindon@ubc.ca
Office: BUCH E171
Office hours: TBD

Teaching assistant: TBD
Email: TBD
Office: TBD
Office hours: TBD

This course is an introduction to central philosophical and normative issues in the health sciences. Topics include the moral status of abortion, the conscientious objection in health care, euthanasia and assisted suicide, and the use of genetic technology. The aim of this course is to develop a set of skills allowing you to think carefully and critically about various positions and views on these topics. We will begin with a brief survey of the most central moral theories in contemporary philosophy, which will help guide your understanding of the various arguments presented. No prior familiarity with philosophy is required for this course.

Required text

This course does not require the purchase of any book. Many readings can be freely accessed online via the university library. Those that cannot are available on *Connect*. See the reading schedule for further details.

Course requirements and methods of evaluation

4 in-class quizzes (5% each, total 20%)
1 in-class writing assignment (10%)
Midterm paper, 4 – 5 pages (30%)
Final term paper 5 – 7 pages (35%)
Participation (5%)

Policy on lateness

Essays turned in late without an extension will be penalised at the rate of 5% *per calendar day*. No extensions will be given on assignments or essays except for medical reasons. Requests for extensions must be supported by appropriate medical documentation. The deadline for requesting an extension is one business day before an assignment is due. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. You must hand in a hard copy of your paper. There will be no make-up quiz or assignment. If you are not in class to write the quizzes and assignment, you will receive a mark of zero.

Recording lectures

Lectures will not be recorded: you will need to come to class in person in order to hear the lectures. No student may record a lecture without permission from the instructor.

Text-matching software

Be advised that essays may be submitted to text-matching software (e.g. Turnitin).

Connect

Students are expected to check the course webpage at least once a week for any announcements or postings.

Copyright

Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, outlines, summaries, exam questions, etc.), including material posted on the course webpage are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor.

Academic honesty and integrity

Here is a statement from the UBC website:

“Academic honesty is essential to the continued functioning of the University of British Columbia as an institution of higher learning and research. All UBC students are expected to behave as honest and responsible members of an academic community. Breach of those expectations or failure to follow the appropriate policies, principles, rules, and guidelines of the University with respect to academic honesty may result in disciplinary action.

It is the student's obligation to inform himself or herself of the applicable standards for academic honesty. Students must be aware that standards at the University of British Columbia may be different from those in secondary schools or at other institutions. If a student is in any doubt as to the standard of academic honesty in a particular course or assignment, then the student must consult with the instructor as soon as possible, and in no case should a student submit an assignment if the student is not clear on the relevant standard of academic honesty. If an allegation is made against a student, the Registrar may place the student on academic hold until the President has made his or her final decision. When a student is placed on academic hold, the student is blocked from all activity in the Student Service Centre.”

Students should also familiarise themselves with UBC regulation on plagiarism:

“Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.”

See the following link for further information about academic dishonesty and plagiarism:
<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/?tree=3,54,111,9>

Tentative Reading Schedule
PHIL 333 (001) – Biomedical Ethics

2017 – 18 Winter Term 1

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Mon, Wed, Fri, 12:00 – 13:00

Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
Week 1			
Wed. 6 Sep.	Introduction	▪ Syllabus	
Fri. 8	Argumentation	▪ Handout on argumentation	
Week 2			
Mon. 11		▪ Handout, Cont'd.	
Wed. 13	Introduction to moral theory	▪ Timmons. (2011). <i>Chapter 1: A Moral Theory Primer</i> . Disputed Moral Issues: A Reader. OUP, pp. 1 – 37.	
Fri. 15		▪ Timmons. (2011). Cont'd.	
Week 3			
Mon. 18	* In-class quiz	▪ No readings	▪ Open-book quiz, no laptops or smartphones
Wed. 20	Abortion	▪ Pope John Paul II. (1995). <i>Evangelium Vitae</i> (excerpts).	
Fri. 22		▪ Thomson . (1971). A defense of abortion.	*Underlined readings are hyperlinked. You can access them online on campus or via VPN.
Week 4			
Mon. 25		▪ Thomson. (1971). Cont'd.	
Wed. 27		▪ Warren . (1973). On the moral and legal status of abortion.	
Fri. 29		▪ Warren. (1973). Cont'd.	
Week 5			
Mon. 2, Oct.		▪ Marquis . (1989). Why abortion is immoral.	
Wed. 4		▪ Marquis (1989). Cont'd. ▪ Warren. (2012). Postscript on infanticide.	
Fri. 6 <i>Midterm paper topics posted on Connect</i>		▪ Hursthouse . (1991). Virtue theory and abortion.	
Week 6			

Mon. 9	Thanksgiving Holiday		University Closed
Wed. 11	* In-class quiz	▪ No readings	▪ Open-book quiz, no laptops or smartphones
Fri. 13	Essay writing session	▪ Horban (1993). Writing a Philosophy Paper ▪ Horban (2005). Quoting, Paraphrasing, Summarizing	

Week 7			
Mon. 16	The conscientious objection in health care	▪ Fenton and Lomasky . (2005). Dispensing with liberty: Conscientious refusal and the morning after pill.	
Wed. 18		▪ Fenton and Lomasky. (2005). Cont'd.	
Fri. 20	<i>Mid-term paper due at the beginning of class</i>	▪ Kelleher . (2010). Emergency contraception and conscientious objection.	

Week 8			
Mon. 23		▪ Kelleher . (2010). Cont'd.	
Wed. 25	* In-class assignment	▪ No readings	In-class assignment
Fri. 27	Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide	▪ Report of the special joint committee on physician assistance in dying	

Week 9			
Mon. 30		▪ Gay-Williams. (1996). The Wrongfulness of Euthanasia.	
Wed. 1 Nov.		▪ Rachels. (1975). Active and Passive Euthanasia.	
Fri. 3		▪ Rachels. (1975). Cont'd.	

Week 10			
Mon. 6		▪ Steinbock. (1979). The intentional termination of life.	
Wed. 8		▪ Brock . (1992). Voluntary active euthanasia.	
Fri. 10		▪ Brock. (1992). Cont'd.	

Week 11			
Mon. 13	Remembrance Holiday		University closed
Wed. 15	* In-class quiz	▪ No readings	▪ Open-book quiz, no laptops or smartphones

Fri. 17 <i>Term paper topics posted on Connect</i>	Cloning and genetic enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timmons. (2011). Introduction to cloning and genetic enhancement. 	
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Week 12			
Mon. 20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kass. (2001). Preventing a brave new world. 	
Wed. 22		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pence. (1998). Will cloning harm people? 	
Fri. 24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandel. (2004). A case against perfection. 	

Week 13			
Mon. 27		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandel. (2004). Cont'd. 	
Wed. 29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kamm. (2006). Is there a problem with enhancement? 	
Fri. 1 Dec.	* In-class quiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open-book quiz, no laptops or smartphones

Term paper due by Friday, Dec. 7th, 3PM in BUCH E171, or in BUCH E370.