

Tentative Syllabus

PHIL 2408: Bioethics (Fall 2022)

Class time/location: W 2:35 - 4:25 in Loeb Building C264

Instructor: Matthew Scarfone (matthew.scarfone@carleton.ca)

Office hours/location: T/W/Th 11:00 - 12:00 in 3A43 Paterson Hall

Teaching assistant: TBA

Coursepage: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/146752>

Course Description

This course will serve as an introduction to some of the key approaches and issues in bioethics. For philosophers, bioethics typically involves the application of moral considerations to matters arising from the health-related life sciences. Bioethics is also often marked by its interdisciplinarity. In our course we will primarily read and discuss works of philosophy, but we will also think about the relevant issues from historical, legal, sociological, and theological perspectives. We will begin with an overview of some of the methodologies and conceptual tools involved in bioethics. This will give us the resources needed to think through the following questions: How should we deal with healthcare rationing? Can healthcare practitioners override a patient's wishes? Is abortion morally permissible? Should we genetically enhance ourselves or our children? Can doping be acceptable in professional sports? Are addicts responsible for their addictions?

Prerequisite: a course in philosophy or second-year standing **Preclusion:** PHIL 3408

Outcomes

By the end of the course you should be able to (i) identify and reconstruct some basic philosophical arguments, (ii) plan and write a philosophical/argumentative essay, and (iii) identify, explain, and analyze some of the major issues in Bioethics.

Plagiarism

Don't. Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Plagiarism consists of "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source.

Evaluation

Overview

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| ▪ Attendance and Participation | 15% of final grade | |
| ▪ Argument Summary 1 | 10% of final grade | due September 28 |
| ▪ Argument Summary 2 | 10% of final grade | due October 12 |
| ▪ Midterm Essay | 25% of final grade | due October 21 |
| ▪ Argument Summary 3 | 10% of final grade | due November 16 |
| ▪ Take-home Exam | 30% of final grade | due December 22 |

15% Attendance and Participation: In addition to the Wednesday lectures, this course has mandatory tutorials. When you registered for this course you should have also registered for one of the following tutorial timeslots: A01 Monday 1:35 - 2:25 in Paterson Hall 215, A04 Monday 4:35 - 5:25 Southam Hall 303, or A03 Tuesday 8:35 - 9:25 in Residence Commons 211. These take place once per week. During these tutorials you will have an opportunity to engage with bioethical case studies. Your attendance at your designated tutorial is required, and your TA will take regular attendance. Each missed tutorial reduces the Attendance and Participation grade by 2%.

30% (10% x3) Argument Summaries: Because this is a philosophy course, it is essential that we are able to accurately reconstruct the central arguments from the papers we are studying. To practice this, you will submit three argument summaries throughout the term. These should each be 1 page, double-spaced (approx. 350 words). The due dates (as noted on the schedule below) are September 28th, October 12th, and November 16th. The specific readings and arguments that you should summarize will be mentioned one week in advance.

25% Midterm Essay: After gaining some familiarity with summarizing arguments, we will turn to analysis. A good philosophy essay will start by accurately reconstructing central arguments from the course, and then provide a reasoned defence of some claim. A good essay will make a small point, but it makes that point clearly and straightforwardly. Your Midterm should be 4 pages, double-spaced (approx. 1400 words). The due date is October 21. The specific topics and instructions will be noted 10 days in advance.

30% Take-home Exam: The exam is cumulative. It consists of short answer and essay questions regarding the entire course content, and will require a combination of argument reconstruction and analysis - i.e., the skills we have practiced throughout the course. The take-home exam will be released on December 9 and is due by December 22.

Late Policy

1/3 alpha grade per 24 hours for the Argument Summaries and the Midterm Essay. No late submissions accepted for the Take-home Exam.

All the deadlines for your assignments are noted above, so you know them well in advance. But sometimes unforeseen circumstances arise that might prevent you from turning in work on time. To accommodate for this, you will have five extension days at your disposal for the entire course. You may use these extension days whenever and however you wish (except for on the Final Essay). No explanation for using these extension days is needed. Simply submit your assignment with a note that mentions how many of your (remaining) extension days are being used. For example, you can submit an assignment one day late and use one of your extension days; or you can submit an assignment five days late and use all five of your extension days; or you can submit two of your assignments two days late each and use four extension days; or you can refrain from using any extension days; and so on.

NB: If you are dealing with an extraordinary circumstance for which extension days would be insufficient (e.g. long-term illness, family crisis, etc.) please get in touch with me as soon as possible to make other arrangements.

Technology

Phones should be put silenced and put away during class. Laptops and tablets should only be used for class-related purposes – please be considerate of the attention of those around you.

Communication

Please be reasonable with your expectations regarding response times. If you haven't received a response within 48 hours, feel free to send a quick "Just following up" message.

Schedule

(all the readings are available through the coursepage)

| Dates | Topic | Readings | !!! |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Sept 7 | Moral Reasoning & Rationing | suggested: McMillan 'What is bioethics?' and 'Good bioethics' (37 pages) | |
| Sept 14 | | Vaughn 'Moral reasoning in bioethics', Hirose & Bognar 'Ethics and health care' (50 pages) | |
| Sept 21 | Patient Autonomy | Bullock 'Paternalism and the practitioner-patient relationship', Hanna 'In our best interest' (35 pages) | |
| Sept 28 | | Flanigan 'A defense of self-medication' (31 pages) | Sum 1 |
| Oct 5 | Abortion | Thomson 'A defense of abortion', Marquis 'Why abortion is immoral' (40 pages) | |
| Oct 12 | | Hendricks 'The impairment argument', Berg 'Abortion and miscarriage' (19 pages) | Sum 2 |
| Oct 19 | Genetic Enhancement | Savulescu 'Procreative beneficence', Sandel 'The ethics of enhancement' (38 pages) | Essay Oct 21 |
| Fall break | | | |
| Nov 2 | | Sandel 'Designing children, designer parents' and 'The old eugenics and the new', Harris 'Moral enhancement and freedom' (49 pages) | |
| Nov 9 | Doping in Sports | Simon 'Enhancement, technology and fairness in competitive sport' (43 pages) | |
| Nov 16 | | Chwang 'Why athletic doping should be banned', Kious 'Philosophy on steroids' (39 pages) | Sum 3 |
| Nov 23 | Addiction | Sinnott-Armstrong 'Are addicts responsible?', Levy 'Addiction as a disorder of belief' (41 pages) | |
| Nov 30 | | de Kenessey & Holton 'The addict in us all' (20 pages) | |
| Dec 7 | Wrap up and exam preview | none | |
| Dec 9 | Take-home exam released | | |
| Dec 22 | Take-home exam due | | |

I will only make changes to the syllabus, including due dates, when unforeseen circumstances occur. The changes will be announced as soon as possible so that you can adjust your schedule and expectations accordingly.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Politics (Fall/Winter 2022-23)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the [EDC](#) website.
- *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Menton Centre](#) for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for [Student Activities](#):* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Important Dates:

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|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 7 | Classes start. |
| Sept. 20 | Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses. |
| Sept. 30 | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript. |
| Oct. 10 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| Oct. 24-28 | Fall Break – no classes. |
| Nov. 25 | Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period. |
| Dec. 9 | Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course. |
| Dec. 10-22 | Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week. |
| Dec. 22 | All take-home examinations are due. |
| Jan. 9 | Classes begin. |
| Jan. 20 | Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term. |
| Jan. 31 | Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript. |
| Feb. 20 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| Feb. 20-24 | Winter Break – no classes. |
| Mar. 29 | Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period. |
| Apr. 7 | Statutory holiday. University closed. |
| Apr. 12 | Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Classes follow a Friday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses. |
| Apr. 13-14 | No classes or examinations take place. |
| Apr. 15-27 | Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week. |
| Apr. 27 | All take-home examinations are due. |

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
520-7850

Writing Services:
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>
520-3822

MacOdrum Library
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>
520-2735