

## **PHIL 2408: BIOETHICS**

Winter 2019, Mondays and Wednesdays 6:05-7:25pm

**Prof:** Katherine Wayne

**Office hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm

**Office:** 3A38 Paterson Hall

**E-mail:** katherinewayne@cunet.carleton.ca

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

**NOTE:** A readings schedule will be provided cuLearn at the start of the course, which may be filled in/modified in as the class progresses. Minor changes to the information below may be implemented as necessary.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

From Carleton's Course Calendar:

Ethical and political issues in medicine, public health, biotechnology, and the life sciences. Topics may include reproductive ethics, research on human subjects, animal research and treatment, justice and health care, physician-patient relationships, death and the end of life, and genetic engineering.

Precludes additional credit for PHIL 3408.

Prerequisite(s): a course in philosophy or second-year standing.

Lectures three hours a week.

This is a course in normative and applied ethics, with significant overlap onto social/political philosophy, which focuses on a set of problems raised in and by bioethical discourse. In this course we examine primarily current bioethics literature to analyze and address pressing ethical issues in reproduction, disability rights, advancing medical technology, and old age care. We consider these issues through the lens of broader philosophical questions about identity, social justice, and competing notions about the good life and progress. Students taking this course will become familiar with some foundational concepts in bioethics and how they feature in contemporary bioethical debates, and in turn how these debates shape medical research and clinical practice.

### **CLASS TEXTS**

Required course text: coursepack, to be available for purchase at Octopus Books (116 Third Avenue). Assigned material not in the coursepack will be made accessible through cuLearn.

### **COURSE METHODS AND POLICIES**

While this is a lecture course, I will regularly include discussion and other peer-supported learning activities in class (in addition to the small group assignments). I will expect you to come to class having completed the assigned readings. To ensure minimal distractions and promote active engagement, the use of laptops and other technologies should be limited to note-taking and other classroom activities.

I encourage you to take advantage of office hours wherever feasible. While my TA and I will respond to e-mails as promptly and fully as possible, e-mail exchanges should generally be reserved for brief and/or logistical/administrative questions. You can typically expect to receive a response to e-mail inquiries from me within twenty-four hours during the work week, barring noted exceptions.

You should check cuLearn regularly for important messages and information about, e.g., scheduling, readings, and assignment instructions. You are also encouraged to use the student discussion forum on cuLearn for peer discussion, forming study groups, exchanging class notes, etc.

If you have any concerns about your ability to fulfill any of the course requirements, but are unsure of how to proceed, please speak with me as soon as possible and take care to inform yourself on relevant departmental and university policies and accommodations services. There is a complete list of these on the last pages of this syllabus, with which all students should become familiar.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. If you are unclear on the nature of academic integrity or Carleton's academic integrity policy, please consult with me and/or the information and links to further resources on the last page of the syllabus.

## **EVALUATION**

Further information and instructions will be posted on cuLearn and discussed in class.

### **1) In-class group assignments: 20%**

Six classes will be primarily devoted to in-class small group exercises involving analysis, critique, and discussion on that day's assigned material. Groups submit one copy of the jointly completed assignment for grading at the end of class; each present and participating member of the group will receive the same assignment grade. Your top four assignments will contribute 5% to your final grade.

### **2) Paper: 35%**

Students will choose a topic from a set list, and write a paper of 1200-1500 words on that topic. The paper deadline is Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **3) Final exam: 45%**

The final exam (during exam period, date and time TBA) will cover all course material, but emphasize what we covered in second half of the course (after the reading break). The exam will include short and long answer questions. More information will be made available as the exam period approaches, and the last class will be primarily devoted to exam review.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (note: see Readings schedule document, to be posted on cuLearn, for complete schedule and reference information)

<p><b>Monday January 7<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Introducing Bioethics</b> (no assigned readings)</p>
<p><b>Weeks 1-3: Harm and benefit in reproduction</b></p> <p>IMPORTANT DATES</p> <p>Wednesday January 16th: First in-class group assignment</p>	<p>Savulescu, “Procreative Beneficence: Why we should Select the Best Children”</p> <p>Sparrow, “Procreative beneficence, obligation, and eugenics”</p> <p>Savulescu, “In defence of procreative beneficence”</p> <p>Bennett, “The fallacy of the principle of procreative beneficence”</p> <p>Douglas and Devolder, “Procreative altruism: beyond individualism in reproductive selection”</p>
<p><b>Weeks 4-6: Antinatalism and responses</b></p> <p>IMPORTANT DATES</p> <p>Wednesday January 30th: Second in-class group assignment</p> <p>Wednesday February 6th: Third in-class group assignment: paper workshop</p> <p>Wednesday February 13th: Paper due</p>	<p>Shiffrin, “Wrongful Life, Procreative Responsibility, and the Significance of Harm”</p> <p>Benatar, “Why It Is Better Never to Come into Existence”</p> <p>Overall, “Not ‘Better Never to Have Been’”</p> <p>Young, “Overconsumption and Procreation: Are they Morally Equivalent?”</p> <p>Häyry, M., 2004. A rational cure for prereproductive stress syndrome. <i>Journal of medical ethics</i>, 30(4), pp.377-378.</p> <p>Holm, S., 2004. Why it is not strongly irrational to have children. <i>Journal of medical ethics</i>, 30(4), p.381.</p> <p>Purdy, “Genetics and reproductive risks: can having children ever be immoral?”</p>
<p><b>Week 7: Reading Break</b> (no assigned readings)</p>	
<p><b>Weeks 8-11: Reproductive technologies and disability, enhancement, and discrimination</b></p> <p>IMPORTANT DATES</p> <p>Wednesday February 27th: Fourth in-class group assignment</p>	<p>Parens and Asch, “Disability rights critique of prenatal genetic testing: reflections and recommendations”</p> <p>James Nelson, “Prenatal Diagnosis, Personal Identity, and Disability”</p> <p>Roberts, “Race, gender, and genetic technologies: a new reproductive dystopia?”</p> <p>Jong and Wert, “Prenatal screening: an ethical agenda for the near future”</p>

<p>Wednesday March 13th: Fifth in-class group assignment</p>	<p>Susan Wendell, "Who is Disabled? Defining Disability" Kittay, "The ethics of care, dependence, and disability" Wasserman, "Stigma without Impairment: Demedicalizing Disability Discrimination" Sandel, "The Case Against Perfection: What's wrong with Designer Children, Bionic Athletes, and Genetic Engineering," Buchanan, "Human nature and enhancement" Douglas, "Moral enhancement via direct emotion modulation: A reply to John Harris" Sparrow, "Egalitarianism and moral bioenhancement"</p>
<p><b>Weeks 12-13: Identity and autonomy in dementia and end-of life</b> IMPORTANT DATES Monday March 25th: Sixth in-class group assignment</p>	<p>Post, "Respectare: Moral Respect for the Lives of the Deeply Forgetful" Dresser, "Dworkin on Dementia: Elegant Theory, Questionable Policy" Edwards, "Respect for other selves" Behuniak, "The living dead? The construction of people with Alzheimer's disease as zombies" Foot, "Euthanasia" Schüklenk, Van Delden, Downie, Mclean, Upshur, and Weinstock, "End-of-Life Decision-Making in Canada: The Report by the Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel on End-of-Life Decision-Making"</p>
<p><b>Week 14, Monday April 8th</b></p>	<p>Exam review, no assigned readings</p>

## **Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018-19)**

### **Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- Must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips.
- Must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box).
- Must include the following on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

### **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 Final Exams:**

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

### **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.

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

**Pregnancy 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 Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**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 Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**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 is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 5	Classes start.
Sept. 18	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. 8	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 22-26	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 23	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. 7	Last day of fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> 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. 9-21	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. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 7	Classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	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. 9	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. 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. 12-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 19-21	Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735