

PHIL 2408: Bioethics

July 02-August 14, 2020

Mon-Wed 11:35-14:25*

Course instructor: Ozan Gurcan, PhD(c)

Email: ozan.gurcan@carleton.ca

Online office hours: *schedule by email*

Course Teaching Assistant: *tbd*

Course description [0.5 credit]

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.

Course Readings

Weekly lecture readings will be available as online links, PDFs on CuLearn, and/or from the course textbook ***Well and Good, 4th edition***, by Thomas, Waluchow, & Gedge. The book is available from [Carleton's online bookstore](#), in print and as an e-book. You can also find it on [Broadview Press](#), Google Play and Amazon. Carleton's online bookstore price matches and will have free delivery across Canada during Summer 2020. Reading schedule is below.

* Lectures

Pre-recorded lectures will be posted every week; *Monday* and *Wednesday*. Exceptions to this (i.e. live lectures at the time set above) can be found in the course schedule below (pg 3). Live lectures will be held over [Big Blue Button](#) (BBB) on *CULearn*. These live lectures will be recorded and posted on *CULearn*. Note that it may take up to 24 hours for these recordings to appear. Lectures are based on the readings, but will go beyond them. Most of the readings are academic papers making an argument about a particular ethical topic. Lecture guides for all lectures will be posted on *CULearn*.

Course evaluation dates

Test (10%): held online on *CULearn* on Mon July 13 11:35-13:05 (1.5 hour *timed*)

Midterm (25%): held online on *CULearn* on Mon July 27 11:35-13:35 (2 hours *timed*)

Case commentary (25%): due Wed August 7 by 23:55 (submit on *CULearn*)

Take home final exam (40%): due Sun August 23 by 23:55 (submit on *CULearn*)

*If you miss a live evaluation or a submission deadline (for example, due to a medical reason with a medical note, a COVID related situation, etc.) you must contact the instructor within 3 working days, or as soon as you are able. Here is the [COVID 19 self declaration form](#) that may be used to request a deferral/extension for term work if you are affected by a COVID related situation. If a deferral is necessary for the final exam, due to a COVID related reason, students should complete this form, as well as the [deferral form on the Registrar's office](#) website and submit them to the course

instructor as well as the Registrar's office. More info about final examinations regulations can be found below.

Course evaluations

Test (10%)

- Held live on Mon *July 13* from 11:35-13:05
- Based on course content of the first two classes
- Multiple choice, true/false, short answer, one long answer
- *The lecture for July 13 is pre-posted so the test will not interfere with content delivery

Midterm (25%)

- Held live on Mon *July 27* from 11:35-13:35
- Covers all course material from July 06 to July 22
- Multiple choice or true/false, short answer, long answer
- *The lecture for July 27 is pre-posted so the midterm will not interfere with content delivery

Case commentary (25%)

- Due Wed August 7 by 23:55
- Pick any 1 (only 1) case study from the course textbook that is listed in course schedule between July 27 to August 05
- 4 pages, double spaced, size 12 font
- Page limit does not include bibliography, title page
- Late penalty of 5%/day
- Detailed instructions will be made available on July 08

Take home final exam (40%)

- Due Sunday August 23 at 16:00
- Covers all course material (cumulative)
- Final exam questions will be made available on August 12

Course Schedule:

July 06: Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics, and Bioethics

***this class will take place live on Monday July 06, 11:35-14:25**

Readings:

- Tom Regan, "Introduction to moral reasoning"

July 08: Argumentative writing, and ethical theories in action

***this class will take place live on Wednesday July 08, 11:35-14:25**

Readings:

- Harvard University Writing Centre, "A brief guide to writing the philosophy paper"
- Christie, Groarke, and Sweet, "Virtue ethics as an alternative to deontological and consequential reasoning in the harm reduction debate"

Week 2 begins (July 13-17)

Test on July 13 11:25 am-13:05 pm (1.5 hour timed)

July 13: Climate change and famine relief

Readings:

- Thomas Magnell, "Present concerns and future interests"
- Peter Singer, "Famine, affluence, and morality"

July 15: Animal ethics

Readings:

- Peter Singer, "All animal are equal"
- Mark Rowlands, "Animal rights: A no-brainer"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72fn74jk-Wg>

Week 3 begins (July 20-24)

July 20: Clinical ethics

Readings:

- University of Washington Department of Bioethics and Humanities, "Principles of bioethics",
<https://depts.washington.edu/bhdept/ethics-medicine/bioethics-topics/articles/principles-bioethics>
- Well and Good, Case 1.4 *Ol' Joe Terminal Illness, Addictions, and Respect*, p. 84-86
- Daniel Z Buchman & Anita Ho & Daniel S Goldberg, "Investigating trust, expertise, and epistemic injustice in chronic pain"

July 22: Beginning of life and end of life

Readings:

- Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A defense of abortion"
- Don marquis, "Why abortion is immoral"
- *Well and Good*, Case 6.1 a and b, *Two Different Requests to be Left to Die*, p. 208-214
- James Rachels, "Active and passive euthanasia"
- *Well and Good*, Case 6.2 *Sue Rodriguez: Please Help Me Die*, p. 214-222

Week 4 begins (July 27-31)

Midterm July 27 11:35-13:35 (2 hours timed)

July 27: Public health ethics

Readings:

- *Well and Good*, Case 2.3 *An Artificial heart: Allocating Health Care Funding*, p. 102-107
- *Well and Good*, Case 8.1 *Dialysis Machine Shortages: Who Shall Live?* p. 261-266

July 29: Global health ethics and Research ethics

Readings:

- *Well and Good*, Case 8.2 *Ethics and Humanitarian Aid: Vertical Aid Programs*, p. 267-268
- Tarif Bakdash and Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "Is It Ethical for Patients with Renal Disease to Purchase Kidneys from the World's Poor?" (**you may use this reading for your case commentary assignment*)
- *Well and Good*, Case 3.1 *Research Involving Alzheimer Patients*, p. 116-124
- "The Havrix Trial and the Surfaxin Trial", p. 55-61 (**you may use one of these trials for your case commentary assignment*)

Week 5 begins (August 3-7)

August 03: Ethics of reproduction

Readings:

- Hugh LaFollette, "Licensing parents"
- David Benatar, "Why it is better never to come into existence"
- *Well and Good*, Case 5.4 *Protecting an "Unborn child"* p. 201-205

August 05: Genetics- therapy/enhancement, and discrimination

Readings:

- Online resource *tba*
- Cheryl Cooky and Shari L. Dworkin, "Policing the Boundaries of Sex: A Critical Examination of Gender Verification and the Caster Semenya Controversy"
- Well and Good, Case 9.2 *Enhancement and Sport*, p. 292-294

Case commentary due August 7 by 23:55 (submit on CULearn)

Week 6 begins (August 10-14)

August 10: Genetics and reproductive ethics (sex and deafness)

Readings:

- Well and Good, Case 5.2 Sex Selection for Non-Medical Reasons, p. 192-196
- Ruth Chadwick and Mairi Levitt, "Genetic Technology: A threat to deafness"

August 12: Review

***this class will take place live on Wednesday August 12, 11:35-14:25**

August 17-23: Final examination period

Submit exam (take home) on CULearn by August 23 at 16:00 PM

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 20)

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 summer.

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 Examinations:

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:

May 4	Classes start.	July 1	Statutory holiday, University closed.
May 11	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.	July 2	Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.
May 15	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.	July 9	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>late</u> summer courses.
May 18	Statutory holiday, University closed.	July 17	Last day to withdraw from <u>late</u> summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
May 22	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.	Aug. 3	Civic holiday, University closed
		Aug. 7	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses before the official examination period.
June 9	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for <u>early</u> summer courses before the official examination period.		
June 16	Last day for <u>early</u> summer classes. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>early</u> summer courses.	Aug. 14	Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for handing in term work, subject to any earlier course deadline. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses.
June 19-25	Final examinations.		
June 25	Take-home examinations for <u>early</u> summer courses are due.	Aug. 17-23 Aug. 23	Final examinations. Take-home examinations for <u>late</u> or <u>full</u> summer courses are due.

Useful Contacts:

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
Centre for Student Academic Support:	https://carleton.ca/csas/ 520-3822
Student Support Services :	https://carleton.ca/academics/support/