



PH/BIO 320

Bioethics

Semester: Fall, 2015
 Days: W & F @ 8:15 AM
 Room: 2141
 Lab – day: None
 Lab–Room: None

Number of credits: 3

Prerequisite:
 PH 125

Instructor: Dr. Ken Nickel (PhD)
 Email: knickel@ambrose.edu
 Phone: 403-410-2000 - 6903
 Office: L2103
 Office Drop in or by appointment hours:

Course Description:

This course examines the moral and legal concerns related to a variety of health related services, research programs, and medical interventions. Issues to be examined include, but are not limited to, abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, stem cell research, reproductive technology, commodification of organs and bodily tissue, patient consent, and the distribution of scarce medical resources.

Further Course Information:

Important course information, including lecture notes, weekly summaries, and discussion forums are found at:

<https://moodle.ambrose.edu/my/>

Important Dates:

First day of classes: Sept 9
 Registration revision period: Sept 20
 Last day to request revised examination: Oct 26
 Last day to withdraw from course: Nov 12
 Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: Nov 23
 Last day of classes: Dec 14

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students should be able to understand and articulate a range of normative moral perspectives on a host of practical medical, health, and wellness related issues.
2. Students should appreciate the broad metaphysical and epistemological contours that give shape to bioethical considerations and issues. Bioethics is always done at the

Final Exam: Wed, Dec 16
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Room: 2212

intersection of science/nature and values/*supranature*, and students should be able to think reasonably and responsibly in the midst of these exchanges.

3. Students should come to understand a broad spectrum of views related to human well being across the life span. Students should be able to articulately and philosophically explain key concepts like “life”, “wellness”, “disease”, and “death”, *etc.*

4. Students should be able to recognize the legal and political implications of bioethical concerns. Students should be able to appreciate how legal theory, legislation, and public policy can give shape and direction to bioethical conversation. In turn, students should be inspired and motivated to apply their reasonably cultivated philosophical reflections in related areas of law and public policy, as well as private individual decision making.

Outline: This outline is provisional and subject to change.

SEP 9	Introduction
SEP 11	
SEP 16	Chapter 13: What is Disease?; Chapter 12: Bioethics in a Pluralistic Society
SEP 18	
SEP 23	Chapter 1: Conception and Embryos; Chapter 2: Fetuses
SEP 25	
SEP 30	SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS DAYS – NO CLASS
OCT 2	
OCT 7	Chapter 3: Procreation and Child Rearing; Chapter 4: Adults and Decision-making;
OCT 9	
OCT 14	
OCT 16	
OCT 21	Chapter 5: Conflict about Appropriate Treatment; Chapter 6: Equipoise and Clinical Research
OCT 23	
OCT 28	
OCT 30	

NOV 4 NOV 6	Chapter 7: Justice and Access to Health Care; Chapter 16 Neuroenhancement
NOV 11 NOV 13	REMEMBRANCE DAY – NO CLASS
NOV 18 NOV 20	Chapter 8: Obligations to the Global Poor; Chapter 14: Public Health
NOV 25 NOV 27	Chapter 9: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia; Chapter 10: Defining Death; Chapter 11: Harvesting Organs from the Dead
DEC 2 DEC 4	Chapter 15: Research on Non-human Animals
DEC 9 DEC 11	Chapter 17: Sexual Justice and Health Care

Requirements:

1. **Attendance and Participation** 15%
 - Please make every effort to be seated and prepared for class **by 8:15**. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to attend each class session with **an engaged frame of mind**. Students should be prepared to contribute **thoughtful** conversation to the topics under discussion. **Absence from class typically results in a deduction of 1 mark.** Class participation is assessed on the balance. Students whose attendance is perfect but who are otherwise unengaged with class material and discussion should anticipate a *B-* for this portion of their grade. Students who regularly arrive late, leave in the middle, or depart early may be marked as absent. As a general rule two late arrivals or early departures will amount to one absence.
 - Participation grades can be negatively influenced if it is obvious that readings have not been considered. Moodle discussion forums will be employed to facilitate and enhance conversations.
 - **Students physically in class but otherwise engaged in non-class activities are simply in the same room and may be assessed as absent.**
 - **Students absent from 12 or more classes automatically receive a failing grade for the course.**

 2. **First Assignment** 17.5%
 - Due Friday, October 16 @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers will be submitted by the Instructor to **“Turnitin”** for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.

 3. **Second Assignment** 27.5%
 - Wednesday, December 9 @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers will be submitted by the instructor to **“Turnitin”** for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.
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- Students who have not submitted research papers prior to the Final Exam will not be permitted to write the Final Exam.

4. Final Exam

40%

- Date: Saturday, Wednesday, December 16 @ 1:00 PM in 2212.
- Students must pass the Final Exam to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but fails the Final Exam may fail the course.
- Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements.

Submission of Assignments:

See Moodle.

Grade Summary:

Letter Grade	GPA	Description	Percentage
A+	4.0		96-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	91-95 %
A-	3.7		86-90 %
B+	3.3		82-85 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	75-81 %
B-	2.7		72-74 %
C+	2.3		68-71 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-67 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		56-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-55 %
F	0.0	Failure	≤ 49 %

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.

Textbooks:

Required:

Weijer, Charles, Anthony Skelton, and Samantha Brennan, eds. *Bioethics in Canada*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Recommended:

Vaughn, Lewis, and Jillian Scott McIntosh. *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (Cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are responsible to check the Moodle course site and their Ambrose e-mail accounts regularly. Moodle will remind students of upcoming topics and readings. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.

Use of cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other non-essential technology is **prohibited**. **Text messaging** during class is prohibited.

Phones must be put away during class.

Lap top computers, I-pads, tablets, etc., are prohibited from general use during class. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis for students with relevant disabilities and needs. Students wanting to use lap tops in class must discuss this with the instructor personally. Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited.

The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “**Course Extension**” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control”.

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.