

Course ID:	Course Title:	Fall 2019
PH/BIO 320	Bioethics	Prerequisite: PH125 or BIO 133
		Credits: 3

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
Days:	W & F	Instructor:	Ken Nickel, PhD	First day of classes:	Wed, Sept 4
Time:	1:00 - 2:15	Email:	knickel@ambrose.edu	Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:	Sun, Sept 15
Room:	RE 112	Phone:	403-410-2000 ext 6903	Last day to request revised exam:	Fri, Nov 1
Lab/ Tutorial:		Office:	2103	Last day to withdraw from course:	Mon, Nov 18
		Office Hours:	Drop-in or upon request	Last day to apply for coursework extension:	Mon, Nov 25
Final Exam:	Tue Dec 17 @ 1:00 in Airhart	Twitter:	Ken Nickel@nometa4U	Last day of classes:	Wed, Dec 11

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.

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 intersection of science/nature and values/culture, 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.

Textbooks

Weijer, Charles, and Anthony Skelton. *Bioethics in Canada*. 2nd ed. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Recommended:

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

Course Schedule

SEP 4 Introduction
SEP 6 Moral Theory

SEP 11
SEP 13

SEP 18
SEP 20 Chapter 1: Conception and Embryos; Chapter 2: Fetuses

SEP 25 SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS DAYS – NO CLASS
SEP 27

OCT 2 Chapter 3: Procreation and Child Rearing; Chapter 4: Adults and Decision-
OCT 4 making;

OCT 9
OCT 11

OCT 16 Chapter 5: Conflict about Appropriate Treatment; Chapter 6: Equipoise and
OCT 18 Clinical Research

OCT 23
OCT 25

OCT 30 Chapter 7: Justice and Access to Health Care; Chapter 16 Neuroenhancement
NOV 1

NOV 6 Chapter 8: Obligations to the Global Poor; Chapter 14: Public Health
NOV 8

NOV 13
NOV 15

NOV 20 Chapter 9: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia; Chapter 10: Defining Death;
NOV 22

NOV 27 Chapter 11: Harvesting Organs from the Dead
NOV 29 Chapter 15: Research on Non-human Animals

DEC 4 Chapter 17: Sexual Justice and Health Care
DEC 6

DEC 11

Requirements:

1. Attendance and Participation 15%
 - Please make every effort to be seated and prepared for class by 1:00 PM. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of most, if not all, classes. 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 may result in a deduction of 1 mark. Class participation is assessed on the balance. Students whose attendance is perfect but who are otherwise unacquainted with class material and discussion should anticipate a C+ (10.5/15) for this portion of their grade.
 - Students *may* enhance their participation grade by contributing commentary and analysis to online discussion forums found on Moodle.
 - Students physically in class but otherwise engaged in non-class activities are simply in the same room and may be assessed as absent. This can negatively affect participation evaluation as well. Students who regularly arrive late, leave in the middle, or depart early may be marked as absent.
 - Students who miss twelve classes automatically receive a failing grade for the course.

2. First Writing Assignment 17.5%
 - Due Friday, October 11 @ 1:00 PM (paper and electronic)
 - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers may be submitted by the Instructor to “Turnitin” for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.
 - Students must submit a paper to be eligible to write the Final Exam.

3. Second Writing Assignment 27.5%
 - Due: Monday, December 9 @ 4:00 PM (electronic only)
 - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers may be submitted by the instructor to “Turnitin” for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.
 - 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: Tuesday, December 17 @ 1:00 PM in Airhart.
- 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.

Attendance:

(See requirements)

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 %

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor’s assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

Other: (On a more personal note)

- ✓ **Classrooms are not public spaces.** When you pay tuition you become temporarily entitled to a private audience with me, your Professor. That audience occurs in a classroom only because my office isn’t big enough. Therefore, please behave in *my* class as you would if you came to *my* office for the same instruction. You are free throughout the semester to (strongly!) disagree with me and your fellow students on the condition that you do so with civility and an appropriate degree of respect. Guests may be welcome, provided you confirm their attendance with me first and they too agree to respect the culture of our unique intellectual exchange.
- ✓ **Students are responsible to check the Moodle** course site and their Ambrose e-mail accounts regularly. I like to use Moodle and/or e-mail to remind students of upcoming topics and readings. E-mail, Moodle, and/or twitter may be used to notify you of cancelled classes or other important and immediate details relating to the course.
- ✓ **Use recording devices, head phones,** and all other non-essential technology is **prohibited** – unless a Learning Services contract is provided.
- ✓ **Text messaging** during class is prohibited. Please, **put cell phones 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. Students wanting to use lap tops in class must discuss this with me personally. Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited. Repeat offenders may be asked to leave the class.

Ambrose University Academic Policies:

Communication

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, they will need to forward all messages from the Ambrose account to another personal account.

Registration

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may 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 or record. 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" form or by sending an email to the Registrar's Office by the **Withdrawal Deadline**; please consult the List of Important Dates on the my.ambrose.edu website. Students will not receive a tuition refund for courses from which they withdraw after the Registration Revision period. A grade of "W" will appear on their 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.

Exam Scheduling

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) the student has 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 expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to use electronics for purposes unrelated to the course during a class session. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. Some professors will not allow the use of any electronic devices in class. 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. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

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 (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required 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 Registrar's Office in writing and providing the basis for appeal 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. 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 acknowledge 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.

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