

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-12**

**Philosophy 2071E, Biomedical Ethics
Previously Philosophy 152E**

Sept. 2011 - April 2012

Classes: Tu, Th 12:30-1:30 pm

Classroom: SSC 3014

Office Hours: Tu, Th 1:30-2:30 pm

Instructor: Kathleen Okruhlik

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Please note that this course outline is tentative and subject to change.

DESCRIPTION

This course does not presuppose any previous experience in philosophy. It deals with ethical issues that arise in medicine and biology. Among the issues to be discussed are abortion, euthanasia, informed consent, experimentation on human subjects, in vitro fertilization, women and health care, concepts of health and disease.

TEXTS

Biomedical Ethics: A Canadian Focus. Johnna Fisher (ed.), Oxford University Press Canada (2009).

Other readings will be made available online.

OBJECTIVES

- To familiarize students with arguments on different sides of controversial issues.
- To help students develop the tools to analyze and evaluate these arguments.
- To teach students to formulate clearly their own arguments on similar topics.
- To develop in students the ability to argue logically and respectfully with one another.

REQUIREMENTS

Fall term essay: 25 %

Mid-term exam: 20%

Winter term essay: 25 %

Final exam: 30%

Attendance and participation may affect the final mark by $\pm 5\%$.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.