



## UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

### Health Sciences HS 2610: Introduction to Ethics & Health

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Office Hours: TBA or by appointment

#### Course Information:

Term: Winter 2015 (January- April 2015)  
 Lectures: Thursdays 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM  
 Natural Sciences Building Room NS-1  
 Tutorials: Please refer to your enrollment schedule

#### Description:

An introduction to basic moral theory, and development of an understanding of moral reasoning. The course will also teach students to apply basic principles of sound moral decision-making to important ethical issues in health including: concepts of health, wellness, and illness, allocation of scarce resources, the notion of “consent”. The methods of explaining/justifying moral decisions in health will be explored by surveying major philosophical approaches to ethics.

Antirequisite(s): The former Kinesiology 2293F/G, Philosophy 2071E.

Prerequisite(s): Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B; or the former Health Sciences 1000.

\*Note: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean (see your academic counsellor) to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

#### Course materials

Required texts: 1) Fisher, J. (Ed.). (2013). *Biomedical Ethics: A Canadian focus (2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed.)*  
 Oxford University Press  
 2) Reading and materials posted on WebCT

Recommended: APA Manual 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
 Northey, M. & McKibbin, J. (2012). *Making Sense: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Oxford University Press

#### Course Objectives:

- Gain a broad appreciation of ethical theory and professional ethics.
- Be able to identify ethical dilemmas and appreciate the relational contexts.
- Be able to formulate an ethically sensitive decision making approach using theoretical concepts and critical thinking.

**Course Evaluation:**

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Mid-term exam   | 25%                       |
| 2) Essay           | 35%                       |
| 3) Final Exam      | 35%                       |
| 4) Professionalism | 5% * see course policies* |

**Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Jan 8	Introduction & Syllabus review
Jan 15	Ethical & Moral Theory I
Jan 22	Ethical theory II, current issues and controversies
Jan 29	Medical Management & Decision making
Feb 5	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Feb 12	Moral Status of fetus & infant
Feb 19	<b>READING WEEK</b>
Feb 26	Genetic Technology
Mar 5	End of Life I <b>ESSAY DUE</b>
Mar 12	End of life II
Mar 19	Access to Health Care
Mar 26	Research Ethics
April 5	TBA
TBA	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

**Deadlines:****Essay:**

Please note that due to the size of the class, essay assignments must be submitted in hard copy IN CLASS on the due date ONLY. Students can hand in their papers in class either before the lecture begins, during the break or at the end of lecture. Papers not handed in during this time frame receive a grade of zero. Assignments that are emailed or slipped under the office door will not count as submitted. In the event of personal hardships due to medical or extenuating circumstances please contact your academic counsellor about academic

accommodations/support and refer to UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

### **Midterm:**

Please note that there are no make-ups for missed mid-term exam. In the event of a missed mid-term where academic accommodation has been granted for medical or extenuating circumstances the weight of the midterm will be reallocated to the final exam, which will then be worth 60% of the final grade. In the event of personal hardships due to medical or extenuating circumstances please contact your academic counsellor about academic accommodations/support and refer to UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

### **Assignment details:**

*Mid-term & Final exams* – will be in multiple choice format.

All material covered in any format is fair game for the exam including anything covered in assigned readings, required materials posted on WebCT, lecture slides, spoken lecture, videos or guest speakers. It is the student's responsibility to get notes from a fellow classmate for any missed classes.

### **Essay:**

- Topic and complete instructions will be posted on WebCT as well as addressed in class.
- Papers are to be 2500 words (approx. 8-10 pages double spaced max).
- Papers will adhere to APA format (6<sup>th</sup> edition) for format and citations.
- A marking grid will be provided (in class/ WebCT) prior to the due date to help students understand the elements of a good paper and how it will be graded.

*\* Note: this is a scholarly paper and hence the presentation, tone and style of writing should reflect academic scholarly standards.*

### **Course policies:**

#### **Email & office hours:**

The most accessible way to reach the instructor is via email to arrange for an appointment. Emails will be responded to as quickly as possible (24-48 hours). Students are encouraged to use drop-in office hours as well.

#### **Tutorials:**

Students are expected to attend the tutorial section that they enrolled in and participate in and engaged collegial manner. Tutorials are designed as a way to translate the theory into practice and such learning is designed thoughtfully as building blocks to learning success.

#### **Professionalism:**

The inclusion of a grade for professionalism is a significant learning goal for ethics education. This is about learning ethics in practice. To foster a productive learning environment professional behaviour and attitude is required. In addition to courteous discussion and respect, students will be required to demonstrate the following: attendance and participation, a degree of compassionate understanding, willingness to appreciate diverse subjective experiences of ethical dilemmas, and conduct attitudes and demeanour to all members in an ethically sensitive manner. For example, (but not limited to) maintaining privacy, confidentiality and respect about what is shared in class, particularly by guest speakers. Taping of lectures and discussion without prior permission is prohibited.

Generally, it is expected that all students who conduct themselves professionally will be granted the full 5%. Incidents involving a breach of conduct will warrant a forfeit of the 5%.

## **University policies:**

Please note that this course like other courses upholds the university values and policies for academic integrity and student code of conduct. It goes without saying that all students should have a right to learn in a civil environment conducive to learning and growth.

### Academic Integrity

Plagiarism in any form is a serious academic offense. Students are required to provide proper acknowledgment of any ideas or words taken from another and to write papers in their own words. This includes written and spoken ideas including material from lectures, conversations, guest speakers and videos etc. Please refer to APA 6<sup>th</sup> edition for proper citation formats. Sources need to be referenced accurately and completely. Students should be prepared to supply their sources for verification if asked to do so.

*Exams:* Exams will be computer marked and may be subject to similarity review that checks for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate the possibility of cheating.

*Essay:* “All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> ).”

**Personal Response Systems (“clickers”)** may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

For further information please refer to UWO policies and procedures.

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical

Documentation heading of the following website:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed.

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student's Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.

### **Support Services**

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>