

# Health Sciences 2610G: Introduction to Ethics in Health

Online and Asynchronous (no set lecture day or time, I will be posting 2-hour lectures weekly)

Dr. Ken Kirkwood

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**Room #218 Arthur & Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building**

Antirequisite(s): Philosophy 2715F/G, the former Kinesiology 2293F/G, the former Philosophy 2071E.

Prerequisite(s): Minimum of 60% [mandatory] in each of Health Sciences 1001A/B and Health Sciences 1002A/B.

*\*Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll 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 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, and the notion of "consent." The methods of explaining/justifying moral decisions in health will be explored by surveying major philosophical approaches to ethics.

## Evaluations

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Midterm Exam | = 25% (Due February 8)   |
| Essay        | = 40% (Due March 12)     |
| Final Exam   | = 35% as scheduled (TBA) |

## Course Materials

Bioethics in Canada: A Philosophical Introduction by Collier & Haliburton

Plus material posted online.

## Course Topics

January 7: Introductions, Syllabus review, etc.

January 14: Ethical Theories & Thinking, part 1  
January 21: Ethical Theories & Thinking, part 2  
January 28: HCW-Patient Relationship  
February 4: Informed Consent  
February 11: Ethics of Pandemics  
February 18: Reading Week  
February 25: Reproductive Ethics  
March 4: Resource Allocation  
March 11: Status of Animals as Research Subjects and Food  
March 18: Enhancement of Physical and Mental Capacities  
March 25: MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying)  
April 1: Organ Donation

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.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

*The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.*

*Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:*

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;*

- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;
- **Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;
- c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations (i.e., "bellringers");
- f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;

Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed.

Statement on use of electronic devices:

### Use of Recording Devices and Course Content

Course instructors own and retain the intellectual property rights of their teaching materials. These rights extend to materials used in online settings and digital learning management systems like OWL, Zoom, and TopHat. Students do not have my permission to make audio or video recordings of lectures, take pictures of lecture material, or distribute any course content for nefarious purposes (e.g., for sale or to cheat on exams). It is the decision of the instructor as to how and when teaching materials can be shared or used. ***Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of pre-recorded lectures or other course materials. Nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.***

*Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:*  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

*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/>

*As part of a successful undergraduate experience at Western, we encourage you to make your health and wellness a priority. Western provides several online and on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page (<http://www.music.uwo.ca/>), or the McIntosh Gallery (<http://mcintoshgallery.ca/>). Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.*

*If you are in emotional or mental distress, please visit Western Psychological Services (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych>) for a list of options for obtaining help. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: <https://uwo.ca/health/wec/education/learning.html>.*

*The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:*

|    |          |                                                                       |
|----|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A+ | 90-100   | <i>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</i>  |
| A  | 80-89    | <i>Superior work that is clearly above average</i>                    |
| B  | 70-79    | <i>Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory</i> |
| C  | 60-69    | <i>Competent work, meeting requirements</i>                           |
| D  | 50-59    | <i>Fair work, minimally acceptable.</i>                               |
| F  | below 50 | <i>Fail</i>                                                           |

*It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 74-80%. In the event that the course average falls outside this range, a constant may be added (or subtracted) from each student's grade, by the instructor, to bring the class average in line with school policy.*