

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2017-18**

Philosophy 3730F: Research Ethics

Fall Term M 1530-1630h and W 1530-1730h SH 2317	Instructor: Charles Weijer cweijer@uwo.ca; STVH 2150B Office Hours: M 1630-1730h and R 1300-1400h
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DESCRIPTION

The course will provide students in science, health science and the humanities with an introduction to ethical issues in human experimentation. The course will review relevant history, an ethical framework for research ethics, and cover core topics, including informed consent, confidentiality, benefit-harm analysis, participant selection, vulnerable participants and communities. Special topics, such as randomized controlled trials, first-in-human experiments, gene therapy trials, cluster randomized trials, social science research, and health policy and systems research may also be covered.

Prerequisite(s): PHIL 2715F/G Health Care Ethics is recommended but not required.

TEXTS

There is no required textbook. Two or three articles will be assigned for each week of the course.

OBJECTIVES

The course has three main objectives. First, it will familiarize students with the history of research involving human participants and the development of major ethical codes and regulations. Second, it will expose them to a variety of key ethical issues raised by research involving human participants. Third, it will give students an opportunity to apply key ethical concepts to real cases selected from the scientific literature.

REQUIREMENTS

Your grade for the course will be based on three written case analyses and participation. There is no midterm or final examination.

Case analysis 1

Due date: October 4, 2017

Length: No more than 1250 words

Format: Write an ethical analysis of a contemporary ethics case, drawing on course readings.

Value: 30% of final grade

Case analysis 2

Due date: November 8, 2017

Length: No more than 1250 words

Format: Write an ethical analysis of a contemporary ethics case, drawing on course readings.

Value: 30% of final grade

Case analysis 3

Due date: December 6, 2017

Length: No more than 1250 words

Format: Write an ethical analysis of a contemporary ethics case, drawing on course readings.

Value: 30% of final grade

Participation

Student participation (attendance, preparation, participation in discussion) will be assessed throughout the course.

Value: 10%

AUDIT

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

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.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

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>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.