

**PHILOSOPHY 331 A01**  
*Issues in Biomedical Ethics*  
 Fall Semester, 2023

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**Texts:**

- **Required:** Materials on Brightspace

**Recommended:** Schuklenk and Chadwick, *This is Bioethics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021)

**Formal Course Requirements and Grading Procedures**

This course deals with ethical issues that arise in the context of healthcare both at the level of policy and at the hands-on level, with particular focus on the Canadian scene. It distinguishes between healthcare viewed as a commodity and healthcare viewed as a right, and considers more specific issue such as abortion, informed consent, the healthcare profession-patient relationship, substitute decision making, reproductive technologies and medical assistance in dying. The first few sessions of this course are devoted to acquainting students with the various ethical theories that are used when dealing with these issues, so no philosophical background is required.

Since this course deals with issues on the interface of theory and practice, emphasis will be placed on demonstrated understanding and mastery of the ethical concepts and reasoning as applied to various types of issues encountered in the planning, delivery and research of healthcare. This understanding will be tested through formally scheduled examinations: two mid-terms and a final examination. The first mid-term examination is 50 minutes long, the second is 70 minutes long and the final examination is three hours in length. The first examination is worth 20%, the second is worth 30% and the final examination is worth 50% of the course grade. Students who have taken (and received a grade for) both mid-term examinations have the option of having the final examination count for 100% of their course grade. **accommodation requires that this be the case, where this must be previously arranged with the instructor or CAL. With the exception of due accommodation, examination should be written in ink, not pencil. The dates for the midterm examinations are approximate because they depend on how much time is needed to cover the material in the relevant sections.**

**Significant dates:**

- Mid-term examination #1: Approximately Oct. 5



- A. Types of Consent
- B. Advance Directives (Complete *Representation Agreement Act* available at [http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/00\\_96405\\_01](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96405_01))
- C. Standards of Disclosure and Standards of Comprehension
- D. Exceptions

## 5. Substitute Decision Making

*Readings:* Chapter 6, materials on Brightspace

- A. Competence / Capacity
- B. Duly Empowered Substitute Decision Makers
- C. Substitute Decision Making and Values
  - Complete *BC Infants Act* available at

[http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/00\\_96223\\_01](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96223_01)

## Mid-term # 1 (app. Oct. 5)

## 6. Research Using Human Subjects

*Readings:* Chapter 7, materials on Brightspace

- A. Human Experimentation: Nature and Rationale
- B. Consent in Experimentation
- C. Tri-Council Guidelines
  - Complete Tri-Council Policy available at

[http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique\\_tcps2-eptc2\\_2018.html](http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2018.html)

## 7. Right to Healthcare

*Readings:* Chapters 9 and 10, materials on Brightspace

- A. Definition of “Health” and its Implications
- B. Healthcare as a Right vs. Healthcare as a Commodity
- C. The *Canada Health Act* and Significant Developments
  - Romanow Report, available at

<http://publications.gc.ca/site/archived-archived.html?url=http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/CP32-85-2002E.pdf>

## 8. Allocation of Medical Resources

*Readings:* Chapter 12 and 13, materials on Brightspace

- A. Macro-Allocation
- B. Micro-Allocation
- C. Special Issues

## 9. Personhood and Death

*Readings:* Chapters 5 and 11, materials on Brightspace

- A. The Concept of Death
- B. Criteria for the Determination of Death

**Mid-term # 2 (app Nov. 6)**