

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2024

PH3860(A3/VC): Philosophy and Health Care – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Tina Strasbourg	PHONE:	780-539-2237
OFFICE:	C408	E-MAIL:	tstrasbourg@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Appointments by request.		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: A philosophical examination of concepts and issues central to the knowledge and practice of health care. Topics may include: provision and allocation of health care resources, rights and responsibilities of patients and health care personnel, passive and active euthanasia, abortion, research and experimentation, disclosure of diagnosis and risks, death and suffering.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Hébert, Philip C., and Wayne Rosen. *Doing Right: A Practical Guide to Ethics for Medical Trainees and Physicians*, 4th ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Other resources are posted on D2L (MyClass).

DELIVERY MODE(S):

On-Campus for students enrolled in section A2.

Synchronous for students enrolled in section VC.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The learning outcomes stressed in this course are Communication Skills, Critical Thinking Skills, and Ethical Reasoning.

1. Students will use **Communication Skills**

- Communicating clearly and concisely employing written and verbal skills appropriate to class assignments and discussion.
- Demonstrating interpersonal skills by listening effectively, establishing a rapport with peers, and monitoring non-verbal signals.
- Expressing awareness of and respect for self and others.
- See section on Philosophical Etiquette for a further description.

2. Students will use **Critical Thinking Skills**

- Learning how to understand and charitably interpret others' arguments and developing the ability to rearticulate arguments in a philosophical form.
- Analyzing theoretical concepts and examining the connections between them.
- Critically assessing philosophical theories and arguments in support of these theories.
- Developing arguments with strong logical inferences between premises and conclusions.

3. Students will use **Ethical Reasoning**

- Applying ethical reasoning to practical situations.
- Recognizing and examining multiple perspectives.
- Analyzing and discussing issues from an ethical perspective.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Participation	10%	
Case Study Critical Essay 1	30%	Due before February 13 th
Case Study Critical Essay 2	30%	Due before March 19 th
Case Study Critical Essay 3	30%	Due TBA

(The final essay is due during the final exam period. Please check the registrar's posting for a schedule of final examinations.)

Essay deferrals may only be granted in extenuating circumstances such as extreme illness or other serious circumstances beyond the student's control. Extensions will not be granted for missed assigned deadlines for reasons within the student's control, e.g. work commitments, family holidays, or forgetfulness.

Expected Statutory Holidays and Breaks: (no class on these days)

February 19th to February 23rd — Winter Break

March 29th — Good Friday

Participation:

Participation is more than just speaking in class. Being an engaged listener is to participate in a meaningful way. Participation also consists in engaging in your responsibility to find important information on the course outline, keeping track of due dates, submitting material on time, and keeping up with course content when you are unable to attend class, which includes watching recorded lectures. Of course, it also entails finishing the reading beforehand and preparing any questions you might have about the material. One benefit of participation is that it better enables you to understand difficult philosophical concepts, get clarity on others' arguments, and offers the opportunity to practice developing our own arguments. Your grade will be based on a combination of all these aspects of participation.

Case Study Critical Essays

The purpose of these assignments is to allow you the opportunity to critically analyze three of the case studies found in the textbook. As noted in the learning outcomes, you will employ the ethical theories you will learn in class to develop your written argumentation skills.

- Please note that in cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions about the origins of its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked elsewhere in this outline) may be applied.

Your essay must highlight the moral dilemma presented in the case study and include your argument in defence of the moral response you think is appropriate to the dilemma.

- You will submit your essay electronically to the "Critical Essay Dropbox" on D2L.
- Your essay will be submitted through the Turnitin plagiarism checker.
- Submission must be in either .doc, .docx, or pdf format.

Essay Rubric:

- Your essay **MUST** be 2 to 3 pages long (not including title page or bibliography), double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.
- Your essay **MUST** use proper academic format, i.e., no extra spaces between paragraphs, and the first sentence of each paragraph must be indented.
- **Your critical analysis must include at least one of the theories covered in class.**
- Your paper should include a summary of the morally relevant features of the case study. The first two paragraphs may also include articulating the theory from the course materials and clarifying any definitions. **The remainder of the paper is your critical analysis.**
- The purpose of this paper is for you to apply the theories we've learned about to a practical problem. Your paper should show that you understand the theory well enough to give good reasons in support of the actions you recommend.

You will also be graded on the following criteria:

- Your essay **must** have a clear, concise **thesis statement**. Think of a thesis statement as the conclusion for which you will build an argument in your critical essay. You will be deducted marks for not including a thesis statement.
- You are expected to use grammar, punctuation, and spelling appropriate for a university level course.
- You will be deducted marks if your essay does not reference at least one academic source from the course material.
- Use whichever citation style with which you are comfortable (just use it consistently and correctly). You will be deducted marks for incorrect citations.

Alternative arrangements for assignments are typically made at the discretion of the instructor. Unless previously discussed, late work will be penalized in the absence of a valid excuse. The assignment grade will be reduced by 10% each day it is overdue, including weekends.

Contesting Grades:

How you do on an assignment has no bearing on how much I respect (or like) you. There should never be any reason for you to feel ashamed or angered by your grade. One of my priorities in this class is to help you learn, and the assignments and my comments on your work are aimed at this goal. I do not expect perfection, and neither should you. I expect you to do your best and to use the assignments to help guide you on how you can improve.

If you wish to contest your grade, please do the following:

1. Double check the assignment instructions and the grading criteria.
2. Thoroughly read all the comments in a charitable manner.
3. Make an appointment to discuss your grade. Please do not ask me to go over your individual assignment in class.
4. Come to the appointment prepared. After looking over the comments and the assignment requirements, you should be able to articulate why you think your answer should have earned more marks.
5. Please remember I can only give you grades for the content represented on the assignment. You may be able to verbally articulate what you meant to say in the meeting, but if that meaning is not clearly illustrated in the assignment content, I cannot give you grades for it.
6. Language is very important. I am happy to listen to your well thought out reasons for adding marks. Please do not approach me in a combative, disrespectful manner. For example, it is better to approach the discussion from the perspective that grades are earned rather than the view that grades are given. This perspective allows us to go through the comments together and to make clear how you earned your grades. This process will better enable you to show me how you think you met the requirements, and if you can do so I will have no problem with changing your grade.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Introduction to Philosophy, Critical Thinking, and Health Care Ethics

Chapter 1: Ethics Matters

Chapter 2: Broadening the Horizon: What Law and Ethics Say

Chapter 3: Managing Medical Morality

Chapter 4: The Times are Changing: Autonomy and Patient-Based Care

Chapter 5: Informed Choice and Truth-telling: The Centrality of Truth and Trust

- Reading: “Four Models of the Physician-Patient Relationship,” Ezekiel J. Emanuel and Linda L. Emanuel. (Posted on D2L)

Chapter 13: Beyond the Patient: Doing Justice to Justice

- Reading: “The Commodification of Medical and HealthCare: The Moral Consequences of a Paradigm Shift from a Professional to a Market Ethic,” Edmond D. Pellegrino. (Posted on D2L)

Chapter 14: Labour Pains: Ethics and New Life

- Reading: “A Defense of Abortion,” Judith Jarvis Thomson. (Posted on D2L).

Chapter 8: The Waning and Waxing Self: Capacity and Incapacity in Medical Care

- Reading: “Collective Moral Imagination: Making Decisions for Persons with Dementia,” Elizabeth Boetzkes-Gedge. (Posted on D2L)

Guest Speakers

Alan McGreevy—<https://www.amcgreevy.ca>.

- Alan is an instructor in the Department of Biology at the University of Winnipeg. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the University of Manitoba, studying neurotropic enteroviruses at the Public Health Agency of Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory.

Tyler Paetkau

- Tyler is a former GPRC transfer student who has received an undergraduate degree from the University of Alberta and a master's degree from McGill University specializing in Bioethics. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia. His research on vaccine denialism has earned him two prestigious scholarships: The McCall MacBain scholarship and a SSHRC scholarship.

Alexander Villafranca

- Alexander is an instructor in NWP's Kinesiology and Health Sciences department. His research includes work on the psycholinguistics of clinical trial names and consent forms, and professionalism in the operating room. The latter research studied disruptive behavior (ranging from mild incivility to egregious abuse) in the operating room, which entailed a survey study of clinicians in 7 countries, with 7400 responses.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

This course includes a videoconference (VC) section. Students registered in the VC section are able to attend lectures and complete all course components without attendance on campus.

Where disruptions or other technological issues occur with institutional or instructor systems on campus or elsewhere, instructors will ensure that appropriate accommodations are made for VC students.

This course has the requirements listed below for VC students. Failure to meet these requirements may affect attendance and participation grades.

VC Student Requirements

Technology	A stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements. Webcam, microphone, speakers.
Class Participation	Camera on and showing your face during class. An appropriate screen name.

Responsibilities of all students:

1. Please do not be late for class.
2. Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class. Do not fall behind in the assigned readings because it is difficult to catch up.
3. If students miss class, it is their responsibility to obtain the information they missed. If available, recorded lectures may be shared in the case of reasonable absences.
4. Policies regarding final exams are governed by institutional policy. Students should consult the Examinations policy in the NWP Calendar. Students should consult the NWP Calendar for any questions regarding deferred exams but note that students are required to be available to write exams during the entire final exam period.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

Philosophical Etiquette

Contrary to popular belief philosophy is not a blood sport. A philosophical discussion should not be thought of as an opportunity to participate in arguments that are meant to crush one's opponent. Rather it is an opportunity, first and foremost, to gain an understanding of philosophical concepts. Second, it should inspire critical analysis of philosophical concepts. And finally, it should facilitate fruitful discussion. I expect all students to show good philosophical etiquette, which is to exhibit mutual respect for each other's ideas and comments and that people not be *purposefully* offensive.

Pet Peeves

- Cell phones that ring during class or use of cell phones during class (this includes texting).
- The sound of binders closing and people packing-up books before I've indicated that the class is over.
- Trying to talk over people who are discussing their weekend plans during class time.
- Use of laptops or other electronic devices that disrupts other students.

Remote Learning Etiquette

(The following list has been created from past experiences with remote learning. Please feel free to add things you've learned that make for a better remote learning experience during the discussion).

- Do not log into class while you are still under the covers in bed. Come to class fully clothed.
- Zoom chat etiquette is the same as verbal chat etiquette. Be respectful with the comments you make in the chat. Stay on topic. Do not use the chat in the same way you use this feature on social media.
- Avoid distractions. Only have the course up on your screen. Wear headphones to help cut out external noise.
- Same as with on-campus attendance, **stay off your phone during class!!!** Seriously, I can often tell when you are looking at your phone.
- If you have pets who are not camera shy, you must introduce them to the class at least once throughout the term.

Use of Class Recordings

Classes (or parts of classes) in this course may be recorded by the instructor for use as an instructional resource for the class. These recordings are protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and are to be used for academic purposes only. Students must not sell, duplicate, distribute, or publish evaluative assessments, course lecture notes, handouts, recordings, or other information provided by an instructor, or use the above for any commercial purpose. These restrictions apply to all recorded materials unless you receive express written permission by NWP and all the participants involved in the recording. Students who misuse recordings may also be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct (for more information the Polytechnic Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities under the section on Academic Misconduct

<https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/>