



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE - SPRING 2016

PH3860 (A4): Philosophy and Health Care - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Tom Enders, PhD **PHONE:** 780-539-2996
OFFICE: C415 **E-MAIL:** tenders@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: After class and by appointment

PREREQUISITE/COREQUISITE: None. No prior knowledge of medicine, philosophy or ethics is required.

REQUIRED TEXTS/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer, editors. *Bioethics: An Anthology*, 2nd or 3rd edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006, 2016.

John Thomas and Wilfrid Waluchow, *Well and Good*, 3rd or 4th edition. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 1998, 2014.

Moodle postings and internet readings as indicated on reading list.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course provides 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 health care personnel and patients, passive and active euthanasia, abortion, reproductive technology, research and experimentation, disclosure of diagnosis and risks, death and suffering.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 credits / 12 hours per week

DELIVERY MODE/COURSE FORMAT:

Classroom sessions will be used for presentation and discussion of key concepts and arguments. In later classes, increasing attention will be given to discussions of challenging and illustrative cases. Moral or ethical values, principles and approaches will be applied to the cases.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will address issues of institutional and public policy, professional ethics, and bioethics. The issues raise questions about the roles, rights and duties of

nurses, doctors and patients. They also raise questions about the criteria which decision-makers may use in making ethical decisions.

More specifically, the course will include a brief introduction to philosophy and ethical theories. Attention will be given to the allocation of scarce medical resources, a challenge which appears in the background and foreground of numerous health care issues. The nature of health, the role of the health care professional, and the use (or misuse) of conscientious objection will also be examined – all of these also having relevance for multiple issues. The concepts and practices of paternalism, autonomy and consent will receive separate as well as ongoing attention.

The course will conclude with the study of philosophical writings on topics such as euthanasia, decision-making about severely disabled newborns, prenatal screening and abortion.

The course will take special note of challenges accompanying new “assisted-dying” legislation in Canada.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course you should have a good initial understanding of basic philosophical concepts, theories and approaches and be able to use them in thinking carefully about philosophical and ethical issues in health care.

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, MU

* The grade of D or D+ may not be accepted for transfer to other postsecondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

EVALUATION:

First exam.....	25%
First assignment.....	20%
Second assignment.....	20%
Final exam.....	35%

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	76 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 75	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	64 – 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 – 63	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

* You are expected to devote time in the classroom to the class itself. Use of cell phones, laptops and other equipment is unacceptable unless approved for class purposes. It is also not acceptable to socialize or do other work on this course or work for other courses during the class.

* You are strongly advised to keep a copy of your own of any work you submit for grading at least until you have your work returned to you.

** Students who miss an excessive number of classes (i.e. three) may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in the Calendar.

****You are expected to write the final exam when scheduled by the Registrar's Office - with possible exceptions in the case of compelling and urgent circumstances beyond your control. Also note and observe other key dates during the term as provided in the Calendar.**

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated; there will be penalties for them. For a precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

Some details of this course outline are subject to change. Any changes will be discussed in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE (reading list is to follow):

- M2, T3 May: I. Introduction. What is philosophy? Branches of philosophy.
Reading philosophy, etc.
- W4, Th5 II. Ethical Theories or Approaches... A concise introduction to basics.
- M9 III. Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources. Age and other factors.
T10 IV. Professional Ethics. Health, health care and health care
professionals. Autonomy. Paternalism. The doctor-patient
relationship. Conscientious Objection. Cultural interaction.
- W11 FIRST TEST
- W11 IV. Continued
- Th12 V. Consent and Autonomy. Informed Consent. Competent Persons.
Mental Illness. The incompetent. Children. Religion. The Family.
- M16 V. Consent etc. concluded
- T17, W18 VI. End of Life Issues: A. Passive Euthanasia. Assisted-Suicide or Dying.
Active Euthanasia.
- Th19 VI. B. Severely Disabled Newborns.
- Th19 VII. Prenatal Screening.
- T 24 VIII. Abortion. A. Morality, rights, abortion – and infanticide.
- W25 VIII. Abortion. B. Other related issues.
- F27 May FINAL EXAM