



AMBROSE

**PH 320 Bioethics (3)  
Winter 2014**

Time: Wednesday & Friday 8:15 – 9:30

Location: L2100

Instructor Information:

***Kenneth M. Nickel (MAR, MSc, PhD ABD)***

***Associate Professor of Philosophy***

410-2000 (ext. 6903)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the moral concerns related to a variety of health related services, research programs, and medical interventions. Issues to be examined include, but are not limited to, abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, stem cell research, reproductive technology, commodification of organs and bodily tissue, patient consent, and the distribution of scarce medical resources.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Students should be able to understand and articulate a range of normative moral perspectives on a host of practical medical, health, and wellness related issues.
2. Students should appreciate the broad metaphysical and epistemological contours that give shape to bioethical considerations and issues. Bioethics is always done at the intersection of science/nature and values/*supranature*, and students should be able to think reasonably and responsibly in the midst of these exchanges.
3. Students should come to understand a broad spectrum of views related to human well being across the life span. Students should be able to articulately and philosophically explain key concepts like “life”, “wellness”, “disease”, and “death”, *etc.*
4. Students should be able to recognize the legal and political implications of bioethical concerns. Students should be able to appreciate how legal theory, legislation, and public policy can give shape and direction to bioethical conversation. In turn, students should be inspired and motivated to apply their reasonably cultivated philosophical reflections in related areas of law and public policy, as well as private individual decision making.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Vaughn, Lewis (Ed.). (2013). *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

## Recommended Textbook

Vaughn, Lewis, & McIntosh, Jillian Scott (2009). *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance and Participation** 15%
  - Attendance will be taken at the **beginning** of each class. Please make every effort to be on seated and prepared for class at 8:15. Students are expected to attend each class session **with assigned text material and an engaged frame of mind**. Students should be prepared to contribute thoughtful conversation to the topics under discussion. **Absence from class merits a deduction of one mark**. Class participation is assessed on the balance. For example, if a student misses four classes and generally participates well in class he or she *generally* cannot achieve more than 11 out of 15 for this portion of his or her grade.<sup>1</sup>
  - Students **absent** for more than **9 class sessions** immediately **fail the course**.
  - **Students in class without text material and otherwise engaged in non-class activities are simply in the same room and may be assessed as absent.** Students who arrive late or leave early may be marked as absent. As a general rule **two late arrivals or early departures** will amount to one absence.
  
2. **First Research Paper** 17.5%
  - Due: Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 PM.
  - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be provided.
  
3. **Second Research Paper** 27.5%
  - Due: Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 PM.
  - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be provided.
  - Students who have not submitted research papers will not be permitted to write the final exam.
  
4. **Final Exam** 40%
  - Date: Wednesday, April 16 @ 9:00 AM in L2141.
  - Students **must pass the final exam to ensure a passing grade in the course**. A student who performs well during the term but fails the final exam may fail the course.
  - Students should not schedule flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the final examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements.

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<sup>1</sup> Participation grades can be negatively influenced if it is obvious that readings have not been considered or that class engagement is otherwise lacking. Moodle discussion forums will be employed to facilitate and enhance these conversations.

## GRADING

Letter Grade	GPA	Description	Percentage
A+	4.0		96-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	91-95 %
A-	3.7		86-90 %
B+	3.3		82-85 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	75-81 %
<b>B-</b>	<b>2.7</b>		<b>72-74 %</b>
C+	2.3		68-71 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-67 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		56-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-55 %
F	0.0	Failure	≤ 49 %

### Important Dates

- Last day to enter a course without permission, withdraw from course and receive tuition refund, and change from credit to audit is January 19th @ 11:59 PM.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is March 3rd .
- Last day to withdraw from courses without academic penalty is March 21st .

### Important Notes

- Students are responsible to check the Moodle course site and their Ambrose e-mail accounts regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.
- Use of cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other non-essential technology is **prohibited**. **Text messaging** during class is **absolutely prohibited** and may be detrimental to your attendance and participation grade.
- **Lap top computers, I-pads, tablets, etc., are prohibited** from general use during class. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis for students with relevant disabilities. Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited.
- Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom.
- Make every attempt to be on time and to remain seated until the class session ends. Keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum as they are distracting to both the instructor and fellow classmates.
- *Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.*
- *Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).*
- *Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the*

- Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."*
- *Students are advised to retain a copy of this syllabus for their records.*

## **PH/BIO 320 COURSE OUTLINE<sup>2</sup>**

JAN 8	
JAN 10	Chapter # 1: Moral Reasoning
JAN 15	Chapter # 2: Bioethics and Moral Theories
JAN 17	
JAN 22	Chapter # 3: Paternalism and Patient Autonomy
JAN 24	
JAN 29	Chapter # 4: Truth-Telling and Confidentiality
JAN 31	
FEB 5	Chapter # 5: Informed Consent
FEB 7	
FEB 12	Chapter # 6: Human Research
FEB 14	
FEB 19	READING WEEK
FEB 21	READING WEEK
FEB 26	Chapter # 7: Abortion
FEB 28	
MAR 5	
MAR 7	Chapter # 8: Reproductive Technology
MAR 12	
MAR 14	Chapter # 9: Genetic Choices <b>(LYC)</b>
MAR 19	
MAR 21	Chapter # 10: Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide
MAR 26	
MAR 28	Chapter # 11: Dividing up Health Care Resources
APR 2	
APR 4	
APR 9	
APR 16	@ 9:00 AM - FINAL EXAM

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<sup>2</sup> This course outline is provisional and may, at the discretion of the instructor, require revision over the course of the term. The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the outline to accommodate, amongst other things, timely issues or pressing concerns.