



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

PHIL 361: BIOETHICS

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Study period: 8–12 June 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 12 June to 1 July 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesday and Friday 9 – 10:50

Venue: Easterfield (EA)LT206

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Nick Agar
Room No: MY 601
Phone: x 5046
Email: nicholas.agar@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: by arrangement

Lecturer: Felice Marshall
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Email: felice.marshall@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: by arrangement

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course will introduce students to some central questions in bioethics. Topics covered may include the ethical issues associated with assisted reproduction, severely disabled new-borns, euthanasia, informed consent, human cloning, stem cell therapy, radical life extension, intellectual enhancement, euthanasia, and informed consent.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. demonstrate an in-depth understanding of bioethical ideas
2. critically evaluate a variety of bioethical arguments
3. analyse or elucidate complex bioethical ideas and concepts.

Teaching format

The bi-weekly meetings will include some lecturing, plus discussion, informal group assignments, and time for questions. There are no tutorials for this course.

Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

Teaching Schedule

Week 1: Physician-assisted suicide: Caplan and Arp, Part 7 (Felice)

Week 2: Abortion: Caplan and Arp, Part 4 (Felice)

Week 3: In Vitro Fertilisation: Caplan and Arp, Part 14 (Nick)

Week 4: Buying and Selling Organs: Caplan and Arp, Part 2 (Nick)

Week 5: In-class test

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

Week 6: Definitions of Death: Caplan and Arp, Part 12 (Nick)

Week 7: Children Refusing Medical Treatment: Caplan and Arp, Part 6 (Nick)

Week 8: Experimentation on Great Apes: Caplan and Arp, Part 9 (Nick)

Week 9: International Clinical Trials: Caplan and Arp, Part 15 (Nick)

Week 10: Human Genetic Enhancement: Caplan and Arp, Part 11 (Nick)

Week 11: Reproductive Cloning: Caplan and Arp, Part 3 (Nick)

Week 12: Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Caplan and Arp, Part 8 (Nick)

Mandatory course requirements

There are no mandatory course requirements.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the year. An approximate indication of the hours to be spent on each component of the course is as follows:

Preparation and attendance at classes: 60 hours

In-class test preparation: 20 hours

Essay: 60 hours

Examination: 60 hours

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Two-hour in-class test	30%	1, 2, 3	31 March, 9-10:50
2	3000 word essay	30%	1, 2, 3	2 June, 12.00 pm
3	Two-hour closed-book final examination	40%	1, 2, 3	Exam period 12 June to 1 July

The essays and examination will be evaluated against the following five criteria:

1. directness and clarity in answering the question
2. support of answer with relevant and reasoned argument
3. knowledge of relevant material presented in readings and lectures
4. consideration of alternative viewpoints and arguments
5. quality of writing, including clarity of handwriting where relevant.

Submission of work

Essays must be submitted electronically to Blackboard; a hard copy is not required.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Late submission of assignments will not be accepted unless the student makes an appointment as soon as practically possible with the course coordinator to explain the lateness (preferably before the assignment is due to be submitted). The circumstances under which an extension will be considered are outlined in section 3.2.1 of the Assessment Handbook. (See: www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf).

Penalties

Philosophy Programme policy stipulates that late submission of essays is penalised. Late essays submitted without extensions having been obtained will receive a penalty of 5 points per day (or part thereof) late. No assignment will be accepted after June 9.

Set texts

The text for this class is:

Arthur Caplan and Robert Arp, *Contemporary Debates in Bioethics* (first ed) Wiley 2014.

This text is available from VicBooks. Please see their website: www.vicbooks.co.nz for details on purchasing it.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz