



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

#### PHIL 361: BIOETHICS

#### 20 POINTS

#### TRIMESTER 1 2016

### Key dates

**Trimester dates:** 29 February to 29 June 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29 February to 5 June 2016

**Easter break:** 24–30 March 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 April to 1 May 2016

**Study period:** 6–9 June 2016

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 10–29 June 2016

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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

### Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 3:10-5

Venue: HMLT103

### Tutorials

Please see the Academic Timetable 2016 [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables).

### Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Nick Agar

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Office hours: by arrangement

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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 tutorial 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 newborns, euthanasia, informed consent, human cloning, stem cell therapy, radical life extension, and intellectual enhancement..

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass 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 twice-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.

## Course Content

Week 1: Buying and Selling Organs: Caplan and Arp, Part 2 (Nick)  
Week 2: Experimentation on Great Apes: Caplan and Arp, Part 9 (Nick)  
Week 3: International Clinical Trials: Caplan and Arp, Part 15 (Nick)  
Week 4: Children Refusing Medical Treatment: Caplan and Arp, Part 6 (Nick) and In-class test  
Week 5: Definitions of Death: Caplan and Arp, Part 12 (Nick)  
Week 6: Physician-assisted suicide: Caplan and Arp, Part 7 (Nick)  
Week 7: Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Caplan and Arp, Part 8 (Nick)  
Week 8: Human Genetic Enhancement: Caplan and Arp, Part 11 (Nick)  
Week 9: Patenting Genes and Embryos (Nick)  
Week 10: Abortion: Caplan and Arp, Part 4 (Felice)  
Week 11: Reproductive Cloning: Caplan and Arp, Part 3 (Nick)  
Week 12: In Vitro Fertilization: Caplan and Arp, Part 14 (Felice)

## 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 during class time
2	3000 word essay	30%	1, 2, 3	27 May, 12.00 pm
3	Two-hour closed-book final examination	40%	1, 2, 3	Exam period 10–29 June 2016

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](http://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 week (or part thereof) late.

## 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](http://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.

## Student feedback

Following discussion with students in previous years, the 3 hour examination was replaced by a 2 hour examination.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)