

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND EDUCATION**

**PH 3860  
Philosophy and Health Care  
3 (3-0-0) UT  
Fall 2003**

**Instructor: Ruth Michaels**  
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**Lecture/No pre-requisites**

**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 experimentation, disclosure of diagnosis and risks, death and suffering.

**Content Description**

The course will begin with an overview of ethical theory and principles relevant to philosophical issues in health care. We will consider health as an ethical issue, whether there is a right to health care and how health resources should be allocated. Standard ethical issues in health care that we will examine will include relationships between patients and professional health care givers, consent to health care, research involving human subjects and decisions about life and death, decisions about the beginning of life, and the genetic basis of human life. Students are encouraged to undertake independent research in areas of personal interest.

**Texts**

Kluge, Eike-Henner W., editor, *Readings in Biomedical Ethics: A Canadian Focus*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (required)

McArthur & Aaron, *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition (or equivalent) (required)

**Timeline**

A detailed syllabus will be distributed on the first day of classes.

**Evaluation**

**ALL assigned work must be completed and submitted to achieve a passing grade in the course.**

- 2 journal assignments (1 double-spaced page)..for feedback only.....0%
- 1 short paper (5 double-spaced pages).....10%
- 1 term paper (8-10 double-spaced pages).....30%
- 4 take-home assignments.....20%
- Midterm examination.....20%
- Final, registrar scheduled, examination.....20%

## **Evaluation Policies**

Extensions of assignment and paper deadlines will be considered *only* in the case of significant extenuating circumstances. If such circumstances arise students requesting an extension will be required to show evidence that a significant amount of work on the assignment has been completed in advance of the day *before* the work is due. For example, if a student requests an extension on the day before an assignment is due, a complete, or very nearly complete, draft of the paper must be shown to the instructor at the time of the request.

Students in circumstances of extreme duress should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate difficulty in submitting their work on time.

**Penalties** for assignments submitted for credit late without prior permission from the instructor are at the discretion of the instructor and may accrue at as much as **25% for each day late**.

Deferred writing of a scheduled Midterm Exam is at the discretion of the instructor. Absences from a registrar-scheduled Final Exam fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period. A description of the policy is available in the GPRC Calendar and in the Student Handbook.

## **Absences**

Students should be aware that they are expected to meet their academic responsibility to attend classes. The instructor reserves the right to debar a student from writing the final exam when the student has accumulated more than 10% (2-3 classes) of *unexcused* absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of *verifiable illness, dentistry, accident or emergency*. If any student is unable to attend a particular class it is his/her responsibility to ascertain what has been missed. In addition, students should not make plans for travel, holidays, employment etc. which will interfere with their writing of exams during any scheduled examination time.

## **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students are encouraged to form study and discussion groups, however, assignments must be the independent work of the individual seeking credit for the assignments and students should be prepared to demonstrate that the work they turn in is their own. All forms of plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of academic integrity and will be dealt with as such. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with GPRC policy on plagiarism and cheating as outlined under *Student Responsibilities* and *Plagiarism and Cheating* in the Student Handbook.