

**CORE 591.26**  
**Bioethics and Disability**

**Instructors:**

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**Office Hours/Policy on Answering Student Emails**

No office hours  
Student emails answered within 24 hours

**Time and Location:**

Online, asynchronous on D2L  
Please consult course schedule to confirm location of individual sessions.

**Prerequisite:**

54 units

**Course Description:**

This online course provides an in-depth view of the impact of bioethics on social policy, disability studies, disability research and the lives of disabled people. Furthermore, it links bioethics discussions to professional code of ethics.

**Overarching Theme**

Content to be covered includes:

- Selected topics related to bioethics issues within a disability studies framework
  - concept of personhood;
  - euthanasia, mercy killing, infanticide,
  - do not resuscitate;
  - non-treatment of newborns;
  - organ transplantation;
  - research on 'non-competent' people,
  - cyborg ethics,
  - water ethics,
  - ethics of human enhancement
  - artificial intelligence ethics
  - robotic ethics

**Global Objectives**

- bioethics as a field of study
- historical roots of Bioethics
- how bioethicists are identified, their role and views about disabled people,
- the views of disabled people on bioethicists and the field of bioethics

- what disability issues are covered in the bioethics debate
- key bioethics theories
- Selected topics related to bioethics issues within a disability studies framework (concept of personhood; euthanasia, mercy killing, infanticide, do not resuscitate; non-treatment of newborns; organ transplantation; research on 'non-competent' people, cyborg ethics, water ethics, enhancement)
- the interconnectedness of the bioethics debate with debates on human rights and disabled people's rights

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

Through on-line postings, demonstrates an understanding of the field of bioethics and disability, including the impact of the global debate of bioethics issues on the field of disability studies and the lives of disabled people. Students will also gain a deeper appreciation of international dynamics related to this field of study

Through participation in on-line dialogue with peers and instructors demonstrates an ability to analyze the impact of bioethics issues on disabled people, disability research, disability policy issues and on the legal framework and display knowledge and critical thinking related to bioethical issues as they pertain to disabled people and their issues

### Required Textbooks

No textbook required. All readings will be available on D2L at the beginning of the course

### Evaluation

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in section F.1 of the 2019-2020 Calendar.

In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Class Participation (determined through weekly posting)

1) in non-content graded week	Value = 6 x 2.5% =	15 % total
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2) Grading of online post content and participation		
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(five defined weeks; weeks 3, 4, 9, 10, 13)	Value = 5 x 17% =	85 % total
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### ASSIGNMENTS

Students will read the weekly reading material. They will participate in the discussion board for all weeks. There will be questions posted for students to respond to, to facilitate dialogues regarding the weekly topics. Active and thoughtful participation in the discussion board is a critical component of this course. Students are expected to give their thoughts on the intro questions by midnight of Tuesday of that given week. Students then have the rest of the week to respond to two intro response postings of their fellow students. Students are expected to use the material from the reading list as part of their reasoning and follow the marking rubric for all weeks (graded and non-graded).

**1. For Weeks 2, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12 students are expected to read and post as described above.**

The instructor will read the posts and give general comments back online but will not post individual comments. Students are encouraged to treat these weeks as preparation for the marked weeks. The more students engage with each other and with the general comments of the instructor, the better they are prepared for the marked weeks.

participation in these weeks will be assessed (2.5% per week) Total = 15%

**2. For Weeks 3, 4, 9, 10 and 13, where students will be graded on the quality of their posts**

The instructor will read all posts and comment as follows: The instructor will generate one PDF of all postings per week for each of the D2L groups the instructor will set up and add sticky notes into the PDF's reflecting comments to students. So, every student will be able to see all the comments of the instructor. This is done to increase the learning from each other, and takes into account that student postings are already visible to fellow students and not private like a term paper assignment.

Value 5x17% = 85%

***Grading criteria for the quality of the initial response to questions in the five graded weeks***

Quality of on-line postings: understands the concepts and integrates information, displays an understanding of different positions, incorporates reflection and <b>critical thought</b>	40%
Analysis of Content: contributes new ideas based on analysis or readings and prior discussion. It is expected that you provide at least five new sources that are NOT part of the course material in your initial response to the questions every week. However, it is not enough to list 5 new sources at the end of your post. The sources have to be used in the argument you make in your initial posting. You lose all 30 marks if you do NOT provide 5 new sources and engage with them.	30%
Application to professional practice: demonstrates the ability to apply concepts to practice. Expected to be ALL THE TIME and clearly marked so I know what you see as professional practice. This reflection should deal with all questions of a given week's assignment. Best to add that section at the end of your answer to each question. If you feel you cannot apply it to a certain question say why. You lose all 30 points if you do not have a clearly marked section on professional practice.	30%

Total	100% for a given week (which reflects 17% of total course mark)
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*\*\*There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.*

*\*\* A student's final grade for the course is the sum of the separate assignments. It is not necessary to pass each assignment separately in order to pass the course.*

#### **A Note regarding Writing Assignments:**

Writing skills are important to academic study in all disciplines. In keeping with the University of Calgary's emphasis on the importance of academic writing in student assignments (section E.2 of 2019-20 Calendar), writing is emphasized, and the grading thereof in determining a student's mark in this course. The Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation values excellence in writing. Competence in writing entails skills in crafting logical, clear, coherent, non-redundant sentences, paragraphs and broader arguments, as well as skills with the mechanics of writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation). The University of Calgary offers a number of instructional services through the Students' Success Centre's Writing Support Services (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/writingsupport/>) for students seeking feedback on assignments or seeking to improve their general writing skills. Students are **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of these programs.

#### **Grading Scheme:**

Letter Grade	Description	Percentage
A+	Outstanding performance	97-100
A	Excellent performance	90-96
A-	Approaching excellent performance	85-89
B+	Exceeding good performance	80-84
B	Good performance	75-79
B-	Approaching good performance	70-74
C+	Exceeding satisfactory performance	65-69
C	Satisfactory performance	60-64
C-	Approaching satisfactory performance	57-59
D+	Marginal pass	54-56
D	Minimal pass	50-53
F	Did not meet course requirements	0-49

#### **Missed Components of Term Work:**

**For participation only weeks (2, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12):**

**Extensions will not be granted:** Students are expected to post their intro responses and response towards their fellow students on time. Students failing to post either component at the stated deadline will receive a mark of zero for that week. The only exceptions to this are those in keeping with the University Calendar (debilitating illness, religious conviction, or severe domestic affliction)

that are received in writing and with supporting documentation. Please be advised that students should notify the instructor before the assignment deadline to discuss.

**For content graded weeks (weeks 3, 4, 9, 10 and 13):**

For each day a student is late in posting their intro response, their mark will be deducted by 10%. If nothing is sent in by midnight Sunday of a given week, the mark for that given week is 0. If a student only provides a response to the intro but does not send in the responses towards their fellow students, the mark achieved for the intro response will be cut in half. The only way to avoid the deductions is by alerting the instructor before the delay (whether by e-mail or phone) or, in very exceptional circumstances, after the delay has happened. However, it is expected that the student contacts the instructor. It is not the role of the instructor to inquire why a student missed a deadline. If students become aware at the time the instructor gives the end mark that they missed a response to an intro somewhere during the course, it cannot be fixed at the end of the course. Therefore, the student should make sure that they have sent in their intro and other required responses at any given week. The Discussion Board is an ongoing part of the course and will continue for the duration of the course. The only exceptions to this are those in keeping with the University Calendar (debilitating illness, religious conviction, or severe domestic affliction) that are received in writing and with supporting documentation. Please be advised that students should notify the instructor before the assignment deadline to discuss.

**Brightspace by Desire2Learn (D2L)**

Brightspace (by D2L) is located on the University of Calgary server and will be used extensively for communication with students. **It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they receive all posted communications and documents and that they receive emails sent by instructors or fellow students through D2L.** Only your @ucalgary.ca email address may be linked to D2L. Please ensure that you are regularly checking your @ucalgary.ca account.

A laptop, desktop, tablet or mobile device is required for D2L access. If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/d2l-student/>.

**Policies Governing the Course:**

**Electronic Devices**

The Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation program aims to create a supportive and respectful learning environment for all students. The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. However, research studies have found that inappropriate/off-topic use of electronic devices in the classroom negatively affects the learning of both the user and those sitting nearby. Students are to refrain from accessing websites that may be distracting for fellow learners (i.e. personal email, Facebook, YouTube).

Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

Cell phones (or similar devices) should **be turned off** (not merely silent) upon entering the classroom. Sending/receiving text messages or leaving the class to take calls is disruptive to the entire class and will not be tolerated unless absolutely necessary. Students who disregard this rule during lectures or tutorials will be asked to leave. These items are not permitted under any circumstance during exams/quizzes, etc.

## Copyright

It is the responsibility of students and professors to ensure that materials they post or distribute to others comply with the Copyright Act and the University's Fair Dealing Guidance for Students ([library.ucalgary.ca/files/library/guidance\\_for\\_students.pdf](http://library.ucalgary.ca/files/library/guidance_for_students.pdf)). Further information for students is available on the Copyright Office web page (<http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>)

## A Note Regarding Instructor Intellectual Property

Generally speaking, course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may **NOT** be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. **The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited.** Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course **at the same time** may be allowed under fair dealing.

## Academic Accommodations Based on Disability or Medical Condition

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

## Accommodations on Protected Grounds other than Disability

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor or to the designated BCR program contact, Mrs. Jennifer Logan ([jljlogan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jljlogan@ucalgary.ca)), or to Dr. Ebba Kurz, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Health and Science Education, Cumming School of Medicine. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

## Academic Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. The University of Calgary has created rules to govern all its members regarding the creation of knowledge and the demonstration of knowledge having been learned. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html> Students are expected to be familiar with these standards and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Please know that the University and the Cumming School of Medicine take these rules seriously. **All incidences of academic dishonesty in this course, such as cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the Associate Dean for investigation;** infractions will be noted on the record of a student found to be guilty.

## Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures is prohibited except where explicit permission has been received from the instructor.

## Other Important Information

### Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

## Appeals

If there is a concern with the course, academic matter or a grade, first communicate with the instructor. If these concerns cannot be resolved, students can proceed with an academic appeal, as per Section I of the University Calendar. Students must follow the official reappraisal/appeal process and may contact the Student Ombuds' Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds>) for assistance with this and with any other academic concerns, including academic and non-academic misconduct. Students should be aware that concerns about graded term work may only be initiated **within 10 days** of first being notified of the grade. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

## Resources for Support of Student Learning, Success, Safety and Wellness

Student Success Centre	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/</a>
Student Wellness Centre	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/</a>
Distress Centre	<a href="http://www.distresscentre.com/">http://www.distresscentre.com/</a>
Library Resources	<a href="http://library.ucalgary.ca">http://library.ucalgary.ca</a>

## Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

## Student Ombuds' Office

The Student Ombuds' Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/) or email [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

## Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca); the SU representatives for the Cumming School of Medicine can be reached at [medrep1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:medrep1@su.ucalgary.ca) or [medrep2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:medrep2@su.ucalgary.ca).

**Student Success Centre:** The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

## Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

As part of the University of Calgary Emergency Evacuation plan, students, faculty, and staff should locate the closest Assembly Point in case of Fire Alarm. Safety signage is posted throughout the campus showing the locations and the possible route to these locations. All students, faculty, and staff are expected to promptly make their way to the nearest Assembly Point if the Fire Alarm is activated. No one is to return into campus facilities until an all clear is given to the warden in charge of the Assembly Area. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/55> <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/building-evacuation/assembly-points>

**Safewalk**

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.



## Class Schedule

*The following is a list of topics for class, associated readings, and assignment for a given week are listed on D2L. There are no exams. Please note that unforeseen circumstances may cause changes to the schedule with respect to the timing of topics and readings. Students will be notified of all changes in a timely manner by way of email and D2L announcements.*

Week 1: September 5-8	Introduction of yourself, expectations
Week 2: September 9-15	Key ethics theories: History of ethics and bioethics
Week 3: September 16-22	CARP Code of Ethics and professional ethics documents linked to your career choice; Feminist approach to bioethics; Disabled people rights approach to ethics and a case study through the lens of ethical theories
Week 4: September 23-29	Impact of different ethics theories and code of ethics towards different disability models and the CRPD
Week 5: Sept 30-October 6	The concept of personhood
Week 6: October 7-13	The case of non treatment of newborns/futile care/infanticide/mercy killing
Week 7: October 14-20	The case of research on non-competent people:
Week 8: October 21-27	The case of organ transplantation
Week 9: Oct 28-November 3	Cyborg/robotic/artificial intelligence ethics
Week 10: November 4-10	Ending Life- From suicide to non-voluntary euthanasia
Week 11: November 11-17	Fall Break
Week 12: November 18- 24	The case of access to water and sanitation
Week 13 Nov 25- Dec 1	Research Ethics Part Complete Research certificate tutorial <a href="https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/tcps2-core-tutorial">https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/tcps2-core-tutorial</a>
Week 14: Dec 2 - 6	Final discussion