

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Outline 2020-21**

**Philosophy Course Number: 4310F/9xxxA
Synthetic Biology and Philosophy**

Fall 2021

Time: Friday 9:30-12:30

Instructor: Eric Desjardins

Office: WIRB 7158

Office Hours: TBA

edesjar3@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

Synthetic biology is a relatively new field

1. Identifying, evaluating, and formulating philosophical issues related to diverse synthetic biology applications
2. Writing balanced and well-supported argumentative essays
3. Leading a focused discussion on issues related to reading materials
4. Presenting and challenging ideas in a respectful and constructive way

REQUIREMENTS

The final grade will be based upon the following scheme:

Essay 1 (30%) on an issue of your choice discussed during the first half of the course.

Essay 2 (35%) on an issue of your choice discussed during the second half of the semester.

Leading a structured discussion (15%)

Preparation to weekly discussions (10%)

Participations (10%)

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

SELF-REPORTED ABSENCE FORM

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

