

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2022-23

PHILOSOP 3730G
Research Ethics

Winter Term
Tuesdays 12:30pm to 2:30pm and
Thursdays 12:30pm to 1:30pm
UCC 54B

Instructor: **Charles Weijer**
StvH 4130; By appointment
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DESCRIPTION

The course will provide students in science, health science and the humanities with an introduction to ethical issues in human experimentation. The course will review relevant history, an ethical framework for research ethics, and cover core topics, including informed consent, confidentiality, benefit-harm analysis, participant selection, vulnerable participants and communities. Special topics, such as randomized controlled trials, Covid-19 human challenge studies, gene therapy trials, cluster randomized trials, social science research, and health policy and systems research may also be covered.

TEXTS

Readings are made available through the Course Readings tab on the OWL website.

OBJECTIVES

The course has three main objectives. First, it will familiarize students with the history of research involving human participants and the development of major ethical codes and regulations. Second, it will expose them to a variety of key ethical issues and concepts raised by research involving human participants. Third, it will give students an opportunity to apply key ethical concepts to real cases selected from the scientific literature.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Your grade for the course will be based on quizzes, case analyses, and a final exam.

1. Quizzes

When: Five quizzes are given during the term

Format: Multiple choice, definitions, and short answer questions based on the lectures and assigned readings. You will be asked about key concepts and arguments. Responses to questions must observe the stated word limit. Responses that exceed the word limit will receive a grade of 0.

Value: 20% of final grade

Late penalty: If you miss a quiz, you cannot take it at a later date. If an academic consideration is received, the missed quiz will be removed from your grade and the remaining will be reweighted

2. Case analyses

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments