

## PHIL 321 A01 - Fall 2022 Philosophy of Medicine

**Instructor:** Eric Hochstein

**CRN:** 12740

**Day/Time:** Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm.

**Place:** ELL 061

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 3:00-5:00 (by appointment)

**Email:** ehochstein@uvic.ca

**Description:** This class will be a philosophical examination of the nature and goals of medicine as field, as well as its practices. Topics covered include: Is medicine a part of science? What is health? What counts as disease? What is mental illness? What is the relationship between genetics and health?

**Structure:** The course comprises three lectures (50min) per week, the contents of which will be based on the course readings. The course will proceed primarily through lectures and discussions. Readings for the class will all be uploaded onto the course website.

**Intellectual property of materials on the LMS website:** Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the LMS website are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity ([https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies)). Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

**Evaluation:** The course will be graded as follows:

- 1 mid-term, worth 25%
- 2 term papers worth 20% each
- A final examination worth 35%.

**Policy on assignments, tests, and term papers:** Late papers will receive a deduction of 5% per day until handed in. Any exam missed without documentation of illness or family emergency will receive a 0.

**Important to Note:** Students are encouraged to consult the instructor with any problems or concerns about the course **early** in the semester.

**Grading System:**

| Percentages | Letter Grade | Grade Point |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 90 – 100    | A+           | 9           |
| 85 – 89     | A            | 8           |
| 80 – 84     | A-           | 7           |

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically **superior**, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students

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| 77 – 79 | B+ | 6 |
| 73 – 76 | B  | 5 |
| 70 – 72 | B- | 4 |

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a **good** comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.

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| 65 – 69 | C+ | 3 |
| 60 – 64 | C  | 2 |

A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an **adequate** comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities

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| 50 – 59 | D | 1 |
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A D is earned by work that indicates **minimal** command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

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| 0 – 49 | F | 0 |
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F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is **inadequate** and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see the most recent (September 2021) edition of the Uvic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations.

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar, but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Tentative Schedule of Readings:**

#### Week 1 (Sep 9-11): Introduction

No readings

#### Week 2 (Sep 14-18): What Does it Mean to be Healthy? (Part 1)

Readings:

- Boorse, "Health as a theoretical concept"

#### Week 3: (Sep 21-25): What Does it Mean to be Healthy? (Part 2)

Readings:

- Kingma, "What is it to be healthy?"

#### Week 4 (Sep 28-Oct 2): Is There a Genetic Basis for Disease?

Readings:

- Juengst, "Concepts of Disease After the Human Genome Project"

#### Week 5 (Oct 5-9): Disease versus Disease Risk

#### **Term Paper Assigned Oct 5**

Readings:

- Welch & Black, "Overdiagnosis in Cancer"

#### Week 6 (Oct 13-16): Is Medicine Part of Science?

Readings:

- Munson, "Why Medicine Cannot be a Science"

#### Week 7 (Oct 19-23): Confidentiality in Medicine

#### **Term Paper Due Oct 23**

Readings:

- "Confidentiality in medicine" by Sharon Kling
- "Confidentiality in Medicine - a Decrepit Concept" by Mark Siegler.

Week 8 (Oct 26-30): Phenomenology and Well Being

Readings:

- Carel, “Can I be Ill and Happy?”

Week 9 (Nov 2-6): Paternalism

**Midterm Nov 6**

Readings

- “Getting Past Dax” by Monica L. Gerrek

Week 10 (Nov 9-13): Mental Health & Mad Pride

Readings:

- Summer Schrader, Nev Jones & Mona Shattell (2013) “Mad Pride: Reflectionson Sociopolitical Identity and Mental Diversity in the Context of Culturally Competent Psychiatric Care” Issues in Mental Health Nursing, 34:1, 62-64,
- Nev Jones (2015) “Inconvenient Complications”

Week 11 (Nov 16-20): Compulsion and Agency

**Term Paper 2 Assigned Nov 16**

Readings:

- Pickard, “Psychopathology and the Ability to Do Otherwise”

Week 12 (Nov 23-27): The Replication Crisis in Medicine

Readings:

- Begley & Ellis, “Drug development: Raise standards for preclinical cancer research”
- Prinz, Schlange & Asadullah, “Believe it or not: How much can we rely on published data on potential drug targets?”

Week 13 (Nov 30-Dec 4): Spill Over and Review

**Term Paper 2 Due Dec 4th**

No Readings

**Note on Avoidance of Academic Offenses:**

All students registered in the course are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, it will be acknowledged by disciplinary penalties. If you need help in learning how to avoid academic offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. You can find the university’s Policy on Academic Integrity here:

[https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20)

## 20Regulations&bcItemType=policies

If you are seeking editing help, please note that the university has recently adopted a strict view about seeking the help of others for editing. They say (this can be found in the link above):

An editor is an individual or service, other than the instructor or supervisory committee, who manipulates, revises, corrects or alters a student's written or non-written work.

The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. The instructor should specify the extent of editing that is being authorized.

Review by fellow students and tutoring that do not include editing are normally permitted. In addition to consulting with their instructors, students are encouraged to seek review of and feedback on their work that prompts them to evaluate the work and make changes themselves.

### **Note for students with disabilities:**

The Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>) is a fantastic resource that collaborates with all academic departments to help arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with them at the beginning of each academic term.