

**CAPILANO UNIVERSITY
COURSE OUTLINE**

TERM: Effective Fall 2013

COURSE NO: PHIL 309

INSTRUCTOR:

COURSE NAME: NEUROETHICS

OFFICE:

LOCAL:

SECTIONS NO:

E-MAIL:

COURSE FORMAT: Three hours of class time, with an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities, for 15 weeks, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: 45 credits of 100 level or higher coursework, including 6 credits of PHIL coursework.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will cover a wide range of topics in the field of neuroethics with the view to assisting students to develop the ability to identify and critically analyze moral problems in that field, and to clarify their own values in relation to specific ethical issues.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate understanding and appropriate application of the philosophical tools that can be brought to bear on issues in the emerging area of neuroethics
- apply the relevant normative principles and theories to issues such as bettering the brain, risks to authenticity, neuroimaging of emotion and intelligence, neuroscience and the law, the neurobiology of addiction, responsibility and personhood.

Assessment of these outcomes will be made through weekly quizzes on the weekly assigned readings, two term papers and one co-operative class presentation.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Farah, Martha J. *Neuroethics: An Introduction with Readings*.
Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2010.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1: INTRODUCTION

Week 2: Better Brains

Flower, Rod. "Lifestyle Drugs: Pharmacology and the Social Agenda."

Farah, J. Martha, et. al. "Neurocognitive Enhancement: What Can We Do and What Should Be Do?"

Quiz 1

Week 3: Better Brains

Diller, Lawrence H. "The run on Ritalin: Attention Deficit Disorder and Stimulant Treatment in the 1990's."

Greely, Henry, et. al. "Toward Responsible Use of Cognitive-Enhancing Drugs by the Healthy: Policy Suggestions."

President's Council on Bioethics. "Beyond Therapy: Essential Sources of Concern."

Quiz 2

Week 4: Brain, Self, and Authenticity

President's Council on Bioethics. "Memory Blunting: Ethical Analysis."

Kolber, Adam J. "Ethical Implications of Memory Dampening."

Quiz 3

Week 5: Brain, Self, and Authenticity

Elliott, Carl. "Prozac as a Way of Life."

Kramer, Peter D. "The Valorization of Sadness: Alienation and the Melancholic Temperament."

Quiz 4

Week 6: Brain Reading

***First essay due.**

Canli, Turhan and Zenab Amin. "Neuroimaging of Emotion and personality: Ethical Considerations."

Gray, Jeremy R. and Paul M. Thompson. "Neurobiology of Intelligence: Science and Ethics."

Wolpe, Paul Root, et. al. "Emerging Neurotechnologies for Lie Detection : Promises and Perils."

Quiz 5

Week 7: Brain Reading

Racine, Eric, et. al. "fMRI in the Public Eye."

Phelps, Elizabeth A. and Laura A. Thomas. "Race Behaviour and the Brain: The role of Neuroimaging in Understanding Complex Social Behaviors."

Tovino, Stacey A. "Regulating neuroimaging."

Quiz 6

Week 8: Neuroscience and Justice

President's Council on Bioethics. "An Overview of the Impact of Neuroscience Evidence in Criminal Law."

Green, Joshua and Jonathan Cohen. "For the Law, Neuroscience Changes Nothing and Everything."

Quiz 7

Week 9: Neuroscience and Justice

Hyman, Steven E. "The Neurobiology of Addiction: Implications for the Voluntary Control of Behavior"

More, Stephen J. "Brain Overclaim Syndrome and Criminal Responsibility: A Diagnostic Note."

Boire, Richard G. "State-Imposed Brain Intervention: The Case of Pharmacotherapy for Drug Abuse."

Quiz 8

Week 10: Brains and Persons

Laureys, Steven. "Death, Unconsciousness, and the Brain."

Farah, Martha J. and Andrea S. Heberlein. "Personhood: An Illusion Rooted in Brain Function?"

Quiz 9

Week 11: Brains and Persons

Farah, Martha J. "Animal Neuroethics and the Problem of Other Minds."

Perkowitz, Sidney. "Digital People: Making Them and Using Them."

Murphy, Nancey. "From Neuron to Politics—Without a Soul."

Quiz 10

Week 12: Class Presentations**Week 13: class Presentations and Wrap up**

* Final Essay due

Final comments with regard to change of attitudes with respect to topics discussed in class.

Week 14 and 15: Final Exam period**EVALUATION PROFILE**

Quizzes: (9 count)	= 50%
Class presentation:	= 10%
Term Papers: 15% and 25%	= 40%
Total:	= 100%

GRADING PROFILE

A+	90-100%	B+	77-79%	C+	67-69%	D	50-59%
A	85-89%	B	73-76%	C	63-66%	F	0-49%
A-	80-84%	B-	70-72%	C-	60-62%		

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 10 quizzes each worth 5 marks. The lowest mark will be dropped, and the highest mark will be doubled for a total of 50 marks. Since only the top 9 quizzes will count, no make-up quizzes will be allowed. Each student must participate in one class presentation that is to last no longer than 10 minutes, followed by a class discussion. Class presentations are worth 10 marks. There will be two term papers, each approximately 1000 words. The first is worth 15% and the second is worth 25%. **Note: it is strongly suggested that students have thesis statements approved before writing even the draft. If a thesis statement is not pre-approved, the student risks the possibility of getting 0 for the assignment. It is also strongly suggested that students have an essay outline approved as well.**

RETURN OF ASSIGNMENTS

First term paper will be returned the week after submission. The final term paper will be returned after the exam period. Term papers must be submitted in person: absolutely no assignments will be accepted via e-mail.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Students are responsible for the material covered in class during any absence. This includes not only the specific material covered, but, as well, various announcements, and information with regard to times of tests and deadlines for assignments.

Late Assignments: One mark per day will be subtracted from late assignments (this includes weekends).

Missed Exams: Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from doctor).

English Usage: It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Plagiarism: Intentional plagiarism will result in zero for this course. Papers must be **unique** to this course. The instructor reserves the right to request evidence that the submitted work is unique. Hence, all preliminary drafts should be kept.

Incomplete Grades: Given at the discretion of the instructor. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and pagers and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.