

Instructor Assistant E-mail Website Carlos Mariscal Lisbeth W. Nielsen mariscal@dal.ca qr.net/ethsci

Course Goals and Methods

Society often finds itself lagging behind scientific advancements, which not only raise complicated ethical and policy questions, but force us to reconsider fundamental concepts like 'parent,' 'death,' and 'enhancement.' Scientists are at the forefront of these innovations, and so may find themselves facing novel issues which are not addressed in a traditional education. This course will familiarize students with ethical issues that may arise in the study and practice of science. We will become familiar with philosophical approaches to ethics as well as with how to employ these approaches in order to recognize, reflect, and act on ethical issues that arise in scientific research.

Required Reading

The text for this course is *Ethics and Science*, by Briggle & Mitcham (B&M in the syllabus). All other writings will be distributed on the class website.

Communication

I urge you to send comments, questions, and concerns via email to a TA or myself. We will respond promptly.

Academic Assistance

If you have or believe you have a *disability* and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to contact Academic Support Accessibility at 494-2836 or access@dal.ca.

For writing assistance, contact your TAs or the Writing Centre at writingcentre@dal.ca, or 494-1963.

If you have *problems outside of class* impeding your ability to do your coursework, please contact the Counselling and Psychological Services at 494-2081 or recepcps@dal.ca.

If there's something strange in the neighborhood, please call the Ghostbusters at 1-212-897-1964.

Evaluation

30% Final Paper

20% Ethics Bowl

20% Peer Review

10% First Essay

20% Weekly Assignments & Library Assignments

Final Paper

The final paper for this course will be a 1500-2500 word paper on a topic of the student's choosing. It must make contact with one of the topics discussed in the lectures or text.

Ethics Bowl

The final event in this class will be an Ethics Bowl! Groups will be assigned a topic and face off in a combination presentation/debate. Details to follow.

Peer Review

Students will anonymously provide critical feedback on drafts of other, anonymized papers (500 words). Reviews will be graded on a combination of charity, comprehension, and critical insight.

First Essay

The first essay for this course will be a 900-word paper on a set topic, to be posted online.

Weekly Assignments & Library Assignments

In absolutely no more than 250 words, you will be asked to write abstracts, reconstruct articles, analyze codes of ethics, and more.

Library assignments will be handed out during the library workshops. These assignments are designed to help you with your referencing and scholarly research skills.

Assignments are due 48 hour after they are handed out to the designated drop box in the library.



Lectures Tutorials Office Hours Th. 15:05-16:55 LSC-C244 W. 16:35-17:25 LSC-C244 Th. 12:00-13:00

LSC Common Area

SCHEDULE	DATE	READING	ASSIGNMENT
Matters of Value &	Sept 10	Syllabus	Enjoy!
Matters of Fact		B&M Ch. 3, "Science and its norms" (optional)	
Library Tour	Sept 16	**Meet at Library Atrium**	Library Assignment
The Trolley Problem	Sept 17	B&M Ch. 2, "Ethical Concepts & Theories"	Analyze a Code of Ethics (p. 324-327)
Writing as Communication,	Sept 23		
Science as a Community			
What is an Argument?	Sept 30		
Preservation, Conservation,	Oct 1	Rachel Carson, Silent Spring (selections)	Argument Reconstruction
Ecology			
Responsible Conduct of	Oct 7	B&M Ch. 4, "Research Ethics I: Responsibility"	First Essay Due
Research		· '	·
Library: Referencing	Oct 7	**Meet at Dunn 301A**	Citation Assignment
Principles for Papers of	Oct 14		
Appropriate Scope			
Speciesism & Animal	Oct 15	B&M Ch. 6, "Research Ethics III: Animals"	Critically Review IRB
Research			Application
Abstracts and Discussion of	Oct 21		••
Institutional Review			
Human Research &	Oct 22	B&M Ch. 5, "Research Ethics II: Humans"	
Guinea Pigging			
Paper Discussion Day	Oct 28		
Ethics & Biomedical	Oct 29	B&M Ch. 12, "Science Applied: Ethics &	
Research		Engineering"	
How to Peer Review	Nov 4	John Bohannon, "Who's Afraid of Peer Review?"	Review Article on Peer Review
Research & Industry		Guest Lecture by Angel Petropanagos	Final Paper Draft Due
9		Reading to be assigned	•
Library: Research Skills	Nov 18	**Meet at Dunn 301A**	Database Assignment
Policy in Science	Nov 19	B&M Ch. 9, "Science & Policy: Policy for Science"	
Intepreting Peer Review	Nov 25		
Science in Policy and the	Nov 26	B&M Ch. 10, "Science & Policy: Science for Policy"	Peer Review Due
Media '		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Ethics Bowl!	Dec 2		Presentations
Science and Religion/		B&M Ch. 11, "Science and Ideational Culture	Presentations
Ethics Bowl!			

Lecture Library Tutorial