

# Course Syllabus

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## BI-302 – SCIENTIFIC WRITING II – BIOETHICS AND CONDUCT

Department of Biology, School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Spring Semester 2025

Credits: 1

Meeting times & location:

Section 1: Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:20 PM

Location: **Henry Hall, room 107**

Professor Michael Dohm PhD

Office: WSC 108

Office phone: (808) 739-8543

Office Hours: Tues 9 -- 11:20am; Wed & Fri 9 - 10am, or by appointment (via CANVAS Messaging best option)

E-mail: mdohm [at] chaminade.edu (current students, please use CANVAS messaging)

A pdf version of the syllabus is available from the Syllabus Archive

## Course Description

This class is a continuation of BI 300. Students will focus upon contemporary ethical issues in science and medicine including funding policies, ethics and conduct of research and medicine. Course will culminate in writing of an authoritative review paper on an issue of interest selected by the student.

## Required text

No specific text book, reading and media will be assigned or expected to be searched for from publicly available resources.

## Course website

CANVAS, <https://chaminade.instructure.com/courses/37617>

(<https://chaminade.instructure.com/courses/37617>)

Connect to Chaminade's WI-FI: <https://metaaccess.myweblogon.com:8443/>

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## Course Elements

This is a debate format class, where students are expected to discuss various ethical issues from different standpoints. Each student takes turns at leading an argument and mediating discussions. Through this practice students will:

- Understand the central, moral and philosophical and social problems in the biological sciences.
- Be able to formulate, present and defend a particular position on a moral or policy issue in the biological sciences and be able to communicate these ideas and conclusions effectively during discussion and debate.
- Develop the critical skills needed to evaluate and articulate moral and philosophical claims, arguments and goals frequently found in the biological sciences.
- Review the ethical issues and policies addressed by ethics committees.
- Be able to write clearly, eloquently and effectively about a particular moral dilemma.
- Learn to direct and manage future learning about ethics.

## Assignments and grading

Assignment	Points	Grade%	Due date
Attendance	150	30%	Each week -semester long
Lead role & discussions*	50	10%	Each week - semester long
Unit papers (x3)	100	20%	During semester (timetable)
Final paper	200	40%	Due by last class
	500		

\* This seminar course is designed to encourage your participation and your leadership in managing challenging issues. In class weeks there will be student-led discussions of a case or ethics concept. Students are grouped and each group is assigned a weekly topic -- the goal is to lead the class in discussing the case or readings. Prior to meetings, online discussions are held -- lead role is

accomplished by each student posting a question or observation based on that week's reading to the discussion board and by responding to other student comments.

## Course Credit Hour Expectations

BI-302 is a one-credit hour seminar course and therefore requires a minimum of 45 hours of student engagement (see CUH Credit Hour Policy). One university semester credit hour typically includes one hour of in-class contact time with the professor plus two hours of preparation time by the student. Thus, over the course of the semester, students enrolled in BI302 are expected to spend about 15 hours in class, 10 hours on readings, and 20 hours working to produce written reports or other media presentations. These times are approximate -- individual needs may vary. Time spent outside of class by students may be better expressed by tasks to do. For example, students can re-write and update lecture notes, perform focused reading from the textbook and other resources, coding and problem solving, developing concept maps, and creating and taking practice exams.

## Technical Assistance for Canvas Users

Search for help on specific topics or get tips in Canvas Students

- Live chat with Canvas Support for students
- Canvas Support Hotline for students: +1-833-209-6111
- Watch this video to get you started
- Online tutorials: click on "Students" role to access tutorials
- Contact the Chaminade IT Helpdesk for technical issues: helpdesk [at] chaminade.edu or call (808) 735-4855

## Tutoring and Writing Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua 'Ike's website ([chaminade.edu/student-success/kokua-ike/](https://chaminade.edu/student-success/kokua-ike/) (<https://chaminade.edu/student-success/kokua-ike/>)) for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via Smarthinking. Smarthinking can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click Account – Notifications – Smarthinking. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at [tutoring@chaminade.edu](mailto:tutoring@chaminade.edu) or 808-739-8305.

## Learning outcomes

Students will be expected to demonstrate the following course Learning outcomes (CLO):

Student learning outcomes	PLO
1. Be able to weigh up both sides of an ethical/moral issue.	1 – 6
2. Understand why an ethical issue may have several stand-points and why differences in agreement may vary depending on context.	1 – 6
3. Examine the processes of the development of ethical policy.	1 – 7
4. Produce a written summary of an evidence assessment.	1 – 6
5. Complete a balanced argument final discussion paper on an bioethical issue	7

## Biology Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon completion of the B.S. degree program in Biology the student will demonstrate

1. Apply the scientific method in the design and testing of hypotheses
2. Transform and display, statistically evaluate, validate, and interpret scientific data and communicate the results of such analyses effectively both orally and in writing
3. Acquire, summarize, and synthesize information from published scientific literature, databases and bioinformatics software to extract and interpret biological data
4. Recognize the chemical and physical principles that underlie all life forms, and the biological organization at the molecular, cellular, tissue, organ, organism, and system levels that emerge from these principles
5. Define the components and processes of genetic and epigenetic information transmission, and their determinant effects on the adaptive and evolutionary processes that they drive
6. Evaluate the etiology of major human disease burden in terms of, pathophysiological mechanisms, epidemiology within populations and possible therapeutic approaches
7. Integrate an awareness of bioethical issues to positively influence the application of science to service, justice and peace in the solution of societal problems.

## Marianist Values

Refer to your Canvas WELCOME learning module to see specifically how this class aligns with Marianist Values.

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith
2. Provide an integral, quality education
3. Educate in family spirit
4. Educate for service, justice and peace
5. Educate for adaptation and change

# Native Hawaiian values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Olelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua ('Olelo No'eau 364) May I live by God
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Olelo No'eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep
3. Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana) 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana ('Olelo No'eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Olelo No'eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi ('Olelo No'eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

## Course schedule

Link to [BI302 course schedule \(https://chaminade.instructure.com/courses/37617/pages/bi302-schedule\)](https://chaminade.instructure.com/courses/37617/pages/bi302-schedule)

## Course and University policies

### Tutoring and Writing Services

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### Student with Disabilities Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu offers accommodations for all actively enrolled students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act (2008).

Students are responsible for contacting [Kokua Ike: Center for Student Learning \(https://chaminade.edu/student-success/kokua-ike/\)](https://chaminade.edu/student-success/kokua-ike/) to schedule an appointment. Verification of their disability will be requested through appropriate documentation and once received it will take up to

approximately 2–3 weeks to review them. Appropriate paperwork will be completed by the student before notification will be sent out to their instructors. Accommodation paperwork will not be automatically sent out to instructors each semester, as the student is responsible to notify [Kokua Ike](https://chaminade.edu/student-success/kokua-ike/) (<https://chaminade.edu/student-success/kokua-ike/>) via email at ada[at]chaminade.edu each semester if changes or notifications are needed.

## Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator.

## Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the [Chaminade University Title IX Office Contact Information and Confidential Resources website](https://chaminade.edu/compliance/contact-information/) (<https://chaminade.edu/compliance/contact-information/>). On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](https://chaminade.edu/compliance/contact-information/) (<https://chaminade.edu/compliance/contact-information/>).

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures> (<https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>).

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ChaminadeUniv&layout_id=0) ([https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ChaminadeUniv&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ChaminadeUniv&layout_id=0)). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The [NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION](https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policy/) (<https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policy/>) can be found here: Notice of Nondiscrimination.

## CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your

number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

## Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

## Canvas "grading"

Canvas "grades" are tentative and not official. Canvas scores available to students are not official until the instructor announces such to the class. Official grading is done by the instructor and records are kept on the instructor's computer.

## Instructor and Student Communication

Please ask questions during class -- interrupt the lecture, it's OK!

Weekly discussions are available, too. Please post and do respond to classmate postings!

Outside of class, use CANVAS Messaging to communicate with the instructor, not CUH email.

Questions about assignments, but not grade challenge for assignments should be asked during class time. All questions for this course can be posted to the instructor via CANVAS Messaging. Online (e.g., Zoom) and in-person conferences can be arranged. Most messages to Canvas will be replied within 24 hours between Monday and Friday; messages sent to instructor on Friday will be replied to on Monday. Please note that questions or communication about the course sent to instructor's chaminade.edu e-mail may take up to 7 days for response. In general, the reply will not answer the question but will request you repost at the proper venue (CANVAS Messaging).

Graded materials will generally be returned within 7 - 10 days.

CANVAS allows Comments and the instructor will use this feature to add context to grading of assignments. If you have questions or are instructed to follow up based on Comments, please communicate via CANVAS Messaging, not by adding to the assignment comments.

## Attendance Policy

The following attendance policy is from the [Chaminade University Undergraduate Catalog \(https://catalog.chaminade.edu/generalinformation/academicaffairs/policies/attendance\)](https://catalog.chaminade.edu/generalinformation/academicaffairs/policies/attendance): Students are expected to attend regularly all courses for which they are registered. Student should notify their instructors when illness or other extenuating circumstances prevents them from attending class and make arrangements to complete missed assignments. Notification may be done by emailing the instructor's Chaminade email address, calling the instructor's campus extension, or by leaving a

message with the instructor's division office. It is the instructor's prerogative to modify deadlines of course requirements accordingly. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing may receive a failing grade. Unexcused absences equivalent to more than a week of classes may lead to a grade reduction for the course. Any unexcused absence of two consecutive weeks or more may result in being withdrawn from the course by the instructor, although the instructor is not required to withdraw students in that scenario. Repeated absences put students at risk of failing grades. Students with disabilities who have obtained accommodations from the Chaminade University of Honolulu ADA Coordinator may be considered for an exception when the accommodation does not materially alter the attainment of the learning outcomes. Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should communicate first with the instructor to review the options. Anyone who stops attending a course without official withdrawal may receive a failing grade or be withdrawn by the instructor at the instructor's discretion.

## Online Attendance

During the first three weeks (subject to change), this course is primarily online. Attendance for this course during the online phase is based on the (1) timely submission of assignments and/or (2) logging onto the course at least once per week. Students will receive credit for 'attending' the class each time a weekly assignment is submitted and/or each time student signs on to the course and navigate to at least one page or module removed from the home page within the Canvas system for the course. Some weekly lessons require the submission of one assignment, some require two. Each lesson will indicate when it is complete. The student is responsible for pressing the 'submit' button each time he or she has completed an assignment. If the page indicating that the assignment has been submitted does not appear, then the assignment has not been submitted.

## Late Work Policy

There are no make-ups for quizzes, unless a physician's note documents your absence during quizzes. Journal article presentations CANNOT be made-up. Quizzes and assignments are due by 8:59am HST on the assigned date. Up to 10% grade reduction will be assessed for each 12 hour late assignment. All quizzes and assignments close by 3 days post the due date.

## Grades of "Incomplete"

Students and instructors may negotiate an incomplete grade when there are specific justifying circumstances. An Incomplete Contract (available from the Divisional Secretary and the Portal) must be completed. When submitting a grade, the "I" will be accompanied by the alternative grade that will automatically be assigned after 30 days. These include IB, IC, ID, and IF. If only an "I" is submitted the default grade is F. The completion of the work, evaluation, and reporting of the final grade is due within 30 days after the end of the semester or term. This limit may not be extended.

## Writing Policy



Instructions for the writing assignments are detailed for each individual assignment on the canvas course page.

Potential resources for writing assignments:

- Google Scholar
- Pubmed
- Sullivan Library

## Cell phones, tablets, and laptops

Instructor policy: Students are encouraged to use personal digital devices during class provided such use does not distract others or interfere with class activities.

University policy. Music Devices and Cellular Phones: *Unless specifically permitted by your instructor* [emphasis by instructor], use of music devices and cell phones is prohibited during all Natural Science and Mathematics classes, as it is discourteous and may lead to suspicion of academic misconduct. Students unable to comply will be asked to leave class. Out of consideration for your classmates, please set your cell phone to silent mode during class. Students are encouraged to bring laptops or tablets to class as the instructor will assign online activities and readings that will require the use of a laptop or tablet. Laptops and tablets should not be misused, such as checking distracting websites. Use your best judgment and respect your classmates and instructor.

## Recording of lecture material

Students may not record audio or video of lectures conducted by the instructor nor of any media presented during the lecture without prior permission from the instructor. All materials presented in class by the instructor will be made available to students.

## Academic honesty

Academic integrity is the commitment by all members of the academic community -- educators, researchers, scholars, and students -- to act with honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, and plagiarism, in addition to more obvious dishonesty.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an