

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
2011-12 COURSE REGISTRATION – PRELIMINARY COURSE INFORMATION¹

COURSE	Law 343 – A03 Bioethics, Personhood and Law
UNIT VALUE	1.5 Units (3 hours of instruction per week)
INSTRUCTOR	Maneesha Deckha
TERM OFFERED	Spring 2012
CLASS TIMES	See Schedule
PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES	None

BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will explore the legal and ethical issues raised by medical and scientific procedures and technologies for persons (humans) and nonpersons (fetuses, embryos and nonhuman animals). In particular, we will look at how the active and absent regulation of medical practices impact the configuration and enjoyment of rights and shape concepts of personhood, property and humanness. Issues of equality and difference will be central to this course. The seminar will consider how medical and scientific practices and discourses impact upon bodies and social hierarchies based on constructs such as gender, race, class, and disability. The seminar will also consider if and how the law should regulate emerging technologies to foster equality among humans and between humans and nonhumans.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

An active learning model of pedagogy will be the norm in the seminar. Class time will consist of discussion, small group work and other interactive and reflective exercises, with limited lectures. Students are expected to complete readings and any other preparatory assignments before the start of class and to actively participate in class, including being open to interactive learning.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Student learning will be assessed by a combination of: a) two 2-page critical reflections worth 5% each; b) a journal log worth 10%; and c) two essays of approximately 10 pages each based primarily on assigned readings worth 40% each. Students may opt to write their Major Research Paper in the course instead of completing the two shorter essays.

April 8, 2011

¹ The information in this document is provided for course registration purposes only and is **subject to change**. More detailed course information about course content and evaluation will be provided upon the commencement of the course. Students seeking additional information about the course prior to its commencement may contact the instructor or, if no instructor is listed, the Manager of Academic Administration and Student Services (lawmaass@uvic.ca).