

Biomedical Ethics: Making Sense at the Margins of Life L30 PHIL 233F 01 Fall 2011 Mallinckrodt 302 TTh 10-11:30am	Instructor: Dr. Emily M. Crookston Email: TBA Office: Wilson Hall 107 Office phone: 935-8036 Office hours: M 3-4pm, Th 9-10am, and by appointment	TA: Tyler Paytas tylerpaytas@wustl.edu Office: Wilson Hall 116 Office phone: 935-7913 Office hours: W 1-2pm and by appointment
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Description

This course is an introduction to some of the basic issues in biomedical ethics. We will cover four broad, interrelated topics: rights, controls, terminations, and resources. Using cases and readings from contemporary philosophers we will ask and (attempt to) answer questions such as: What roll should patient or parental consent play in medical decisions? What limits, if any, should we place on clinical trials and experimentation? Should there be limits on the use of genetic testing and reproductive therapies such as IVF? When, if ever, is it morally permissible to terminate life? How ought we decide who should receive scarce organs? Is there a right to access equal health care services?

The broad objectives for this course are (1) to give you a sense of what philosophers think about and why and (2) to teach you to think philosophically for yourselves.

The point of the course is not to provide a neat, unified account of “the Truth” about the matters under discussion. That would be a poor way to introduce the subject. Philosophy is not like physics where there is a large body of established truth—established truth, which no physicist would question and which beginners must master (the law of thermodynamics, for example). In philosophy, by contrast, everything is controversial. Professional philosophers disagree about even the most fundamental issues; however, that does not imply that there are no ‘right or wrong’ answers. Philosophy is first and last an exercise in reason. The ideas that should come out on top are the ones that have the best reasons on their sides. My hope is that you as students learn enough in this course to begin to assess for yourselves where the weight of reason rests both inside and outside of the classroom.

Requirements

- A. Participation (20%): The success and enjoyment of this and any class depends upon the involvement of its members. Please do not be afraid to share even your less-than-fully-worked-out thoughts with the class because undeveloped ideas often lead to fruitful discussion. Each student should come to class having completed the readings and being prepared to discuss the material. To that end, each student will be required to turn in a **daily one-page summary** of each reading assignment at the beginning of class. All summaries must be typed using a 12-point, Times New Roman (or similar) font, and be double-spaced with 1-inch margins. Summaries will count as a portion of your participation grade. You may skip **three** summaries without penalty.

- B. Attendance: I do not have an official attendance policy. However, I do expect you to realize that it is *very* likely that your participation grade, your exam grades, and your overall grade will be adversely affected by poor attendance. Additionally, this course will be taught and assessed on the assumption that students will attend all classes.
- C. Writing (35%): Each student will be required to turn in **two papers**: one short paper, 1-2 pages in length (10%), and one longer paper, 3-5 pages in length (25%). All papers must be typed using a 12-point, Times New Roman (or similar) font, and be double-spaced with 1-inch margins. The first paper is **due on Friday, September 30th, by 5pm** and the second is **due on Friday, November 11th, by 5pm**. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late (that means a B+ paper turned in 2 days late (with the weekend counting as one day) will receive a B-). More information about the format and expectations for the papers will be given as we approach the due dates.
- D. Exams (45%): There will be **one mid-term**, take-home exam (20%) **due in class on Tuesday, October 18th**. The mid-term exam will consist of three or four essay questions. Late exams will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late (that means a B+ exam turned in 2 days late (with the weekend counting as one day) will receive a B-). Additional information about the content of the exam will be given as we approach the due date. The **final exam** (25%) will be a **two-hour** exam given during the scheduled exam period on **Tuesday, December 20th at 6pm**. The final exam will consist of some mix of the following: short answer questions, passage ids, and essay questions. More information about the format and expectations for the final will be given as we approach the final exam date.
- E. Appealing Grades: All papers and exams will be graded *anonymously* using student id numbers. I am happy to provide clarification about grades; however, if you would like to appeal a grade you must take the following steps: (1) Meet and discuss the grade with the TA. (2) If you still wish to appeal, notify the TA of your decision and submit a new, identical copy of the assignment to me *anonymously*. My grade will be final regardless of whether it is higher or lower than the original.
- F. Academic Integrity: It should not be necessary to say, but all work submitted for credit in this course must be the student's own and written for this particular course. Ideas or words borrowed without attribution from another person or borrowed from one's own work done for another course constitutes plagiarism. The university's academic integrity policy or honor code is outlined clearly on the Student Conduct page at <http://studentconduct.wustl.edu/integrity/policy>. If my TA or I discover an instance of plagiarism or any other violation of the academic integrity policy, the student(s) will automatically fail the course and be reported according to the specified procedures. I take all violations of academic integrity, including but not limited to lying, cheating, and stealing, very seriously.
- G. Required Text:
- Ronald Munson (ed.). *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Bioethics*. Wadsworth Publishing, 9th ed. (2012). ISBN: 1111298033 (IR).

Schedule*

Date	Topic	Reading
08/30	Introduction	None

I. Rights

Date	Topic	Reading
09/01	Consent and Medical Treatment: Cowart case and O'Neill	<i>IR</i> , p. 3-6, 53-60
09/06	Consent and Medical Treatment: Dworkin and Burt	<i>IR</i> , p. 60-73
09/08	Children and Consent: Suffer the Little Children, Hmong, and Vegan Baby cases and Diekema	<i>IR</i> , p. 14-17, 34-37, 87-92
09/13	Children and Consent: Hord et al, Catlin, and Rosam	<i>IR</i> , p. 93-103
09/15	Briefing Session and Discussion	<i>IR</i> , p. 38-47
09/20	Randomized Clinical Trials: Marquis, Passamani, and Northcott	<i>IR</i> , p. 180-191
09/22	Animal Experimentation: Singer and Cohen	<i>IR</i> , p. 196-209
09/27	Briefing Session and Discussion	<i>IR</i> , p. 137-146, 156-158

II. Controls

Date	Topic	Reading
09/29	Genetic Choice: McMahan and Davis	<i>IR</i> , p. 281-294
09/30	SHORT PAPER DUE	5pm
10/04	Genetic Selection: Huntington's Disease case and Savulescu	<i>IR</i> , p. 221-224, 294-300
10/06	Briefing Session and Discussion	<i>IR</i> , p. 259-274
10/11	Assisted Reproduction: Minkoff /Ecker and Cohen	<i>IR</i> , p. 373-387
10/13	Cloning: Kass and Strong	<i>IR</i> , p. 401-411
10/18	Surrogacy: Calvert case, Steinbeck, and Anderson MIDTERM EXAM DUE	<i>IR</i> , p. 349-350, 411-425 in class

10/20	Briefing Session and Discussion	<i>IR</i> , p. 354-367
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III. Terminations

Date	Topic	Reading
10/25	Abortion: Roe v. Wade and Finkbine cases, Marquis, and Brown	<i>IR</i> , p. 433-435, 461-468
10/27	Abortion: Thomson	<i>IR</i> , p. 472-482
11/01	Abortion: Warren	<i>IR</i> , p. 482-490
11/03	Impaired Infants: Smith, the "Ashley Treatment," and Liao et al	<i>IR</i> , p. 524-536
11/08	Impaired Infants: Robertson, Engelhardt, and Davis	<i>IR</i> , p. 536-549
11/10	Briefing Session and Discussion	<i>IR</i> , p. 454-461, 517-524
11/11	LONGER PAPER DUE	5pm
11/15	Euthanasia: Bouvia case, Rachels, and Nesbitt	<i>IR</i> , p. 561-562, 585-593
11/17	Euthanasia: Kevorkian case, Callahan, and Lachs	<i>IR</i> , p. 596-604

IV. Resources

Date	Topic	Reading
11/22	Organ Transplants: Prisoner case, Appel, Sade, and Cohen et al	<i>IR</i> , p. 623-625, 645-652
11/24	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving break
11/29	Organ Transplants: Radcliffe-Richards et al, Spital/Erin, and Annas	<i>IR</i> , p. 654-657, 659-666
12/01	Health Care: Ingram case, Engelhardt, and Nielson	<i>IR</i> , p. 675-676, 702-713
12/06	Health Care: Daniels and Sreenivassan	<i>IR</i> , p. 713-724
12/08	Briefing Session and Discussion	<i>IR</i> , p. 638-644, 689-694
12/20	FINAL EXAM	6-8pm

* I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule as I see fit.