

Biomedical Ethics

Philosophy 120

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30 p.m., Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., and by appointment.

I. Required Texts:

Ronald Munson, *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition

II. Purpose:

Ethics or moral philosophy covers a broad range of questions and issues. We might say, however, that two questions are central: “What is right and wrong?” and “How does one lead a good life?” Bioethics is a subset of ethics concerned with these questions in the context of medical care and medical research. Thus, bioethics is concerned broadly with questions of right and wrong concerning particular clinical practices or practices in medical research, and it is concerned with the fundamental question, “How does one lead a good life as a medical professional?” The purpose of this class is to provide you with information, skills and an environment to help you answer these questions.

III. Grading:

Quizzes:	40%
Term Paper:	30%
Final Exam:	30%

Daily Quizzes: You will have a quiz over each of your reading assignments. After we discuss the readings in class you will have 24 hours to log on to Moodle and take a quiz consisting of 5 true/false questions. You can review your notes and/or the readings before you take the quiz, but you should put all material away before you take the quiz. During the quiz you should consult no references other than your memory. This is an essential part of the course and your ability to learn the course material. You should take the quiz even if you miss class. Except for extraordinary circumstances, make up quizzes will not be given. I will, however, drop your lowest two individual quiz grades.

Term Paper: Your term paper will be approximately 3 single spaced pages. You will receive specific instructions later in the term.

Final Exam: The final exam will be 50% essay and 50% true/false. The essay questions will be provided before the test to encourage you to focus your study on the central issues and to encourage you to study with other students. I encourage group studying to help students learn philosophical ideas through dialogue. The true/false questions will be based on quiz questions from earlier in the term.

Participation: You are expected to come to class and participate in classroom discussion. Excellent participation may raise your final grade and poor participation (including excessive absences and a failure to participate in discussion) may lower your final grade.

Late term papers are penalized as follows:

Up to 24 hours – half a letter grade

24 to 48 hours – one letter grade

48 to 72 hours – two letter grades

Assignments turned in after 72 hours receive a failing grade.

I will sometimes grant brief extensions, but you must request the extension at least two business days before the assignment is due.

IV. Schedule

Week 1: Jan 7 – 11

Mon: First day of class

Wed: Basic Ethical Theories, pp. 741 -759.

Fri: Basic Ethical Theories, pp. 759 - 769.

Week 2: Jan 14 – 18

Mon: Major Moral Principles, pp. 769 - 781.

Wed: Theories without Principles, pp. 782 - 791.

Fri: Research Ethics and Informed Consent, pp. 1 - 55.

Week 3: Jan 21 - 25

Mon: *MLK Day, no class*

Wed: Research Ethics... Race ... HIV, pp. 72 - 79, pp. 212 - 214, pp. 184 - 188, and pp. 194 - 200.

Fri: Research Ethics and Informed Consent, pp. 79 - 96.

Week 4: Jan 28 - Feb 1

Mon: Physicians, Patients, and Others, pp. 98 - 125.

Wed: Physicians, Patients, and Others, pp. 125 - 143.

Fri: Physicians, Patients, and Others, pp. 152 - 169.

Week 5: Feb 4 - 8

Mon: Abortion, pp. 546 - 576.

Wed: Abortion, pp. 586 - 598.

Thurs: Your Term Paper is due in Main Hall 415 at 11:00 a.m.

Fri: Abortion, pp. 576 - 585 and pp. 611 - 621.

Week 6: Feb 11 - 15

Mon: Genetic Control, pp. 270 - 319.

Wed: Genetic Control, pp. 320 - 333.

Fri: *Midterm Reading Period*

Week 7: Feb 18 - 22

Mon: Genetic Control, pp. 333 - 351.

Wed: Reproductive Control, pp. 364 - 396 and 423 - 437.

Fri: Reproductive Control, pp. 438 - 447.

Week 8: Feb 25 - 29

Mon: Treating or Terminating, pp. 622 - 639.

Wed: Treating or Terminating, pp. 639 - 657.

Fri: Treating or Terminating, pp. 664 - 669.

Week 9: Mar 3 - 7

Mon: Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide, pp. 675 - 703.

Wed: Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide, pp. 703 - 711.

Fri: Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide, pp. 715 - 732.

Week 10: Mar 10 - 14

Mon: Scarce Medical Resources, pp. 453 - 475.

Wed: Scarce Medical Resources, pp. 475 - 483.

Fri: Scarce Medical Resources, pp. 483 - 492.

Final Exam: 8:30 a.m. Thursday, March 20.