

BIOETHICS

PHIL 235 (3 hrs), Manchester University, **January 2018** (M-F, 9:00-10:15am + 1:00-2:15pm; Academic Center 364)

Instructor: Dr. Steve Naragon, Office: Academic Center, #233 (Phone — *office*: 982-5041; *home*: 982-6033)

Web Syllabus: <http://users.manchester.edu/Facstaff/SSNaragon/Online/235-J18/Welcome.html>

You will need to consult the web syllabus for every class session; this paper version includes just the bare minimum.

Required Texts: Robert M. Veatch, Amy M. Haddad, Dan C. English, *Case Studies in Biomedical Ethics*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2015). + various readings available on the course website.

In these readings, you will encounter many **words that you do not know**. Some of these will be medical terms, some will be philosophical, and some will be part of a general vocabulary larger than your own. You must rise to the challenge in all three of these areas, and learn those words! I have developed an online **Glossary** of which I expect you to make active and constant use; it is aimed primarily at the philosophical vocabulary found in bioethics. For terms not found there, consult any good dictionary.

General Education Goals. This course satisfies the Core 4PH (philosophy) requirement, whose goals for the student are:

1. to discuss the approaches that philosophers take to fundamental human questions
2. to acquire the vocabulary and skills necessary to engage in philosophical inquiry, especially through developing your ability to understand and evaluate arguments.

These goals are furthered by (a) your careful reading of the texts, (b) classroom and small group discussion, and (c) writing and responding to Discussion Forum posts on a number of central topics in philosophy. The goals are further elaborated, in the context of this course, under the “Course Objectives” on the web syllabus.

Course Requirements

Attendance. If you do not plan to attend class and participate constructively, then you should withdraw from this class. A course on philosophy is by its nature aimed at self-examination and discussion; consequently, doing well in this class requires being there. Missing class does not directly affect your grade, although students with poor attendance typically do quite poorly in the class. On the average, students missing more than two classes during the semester receive grades below the class average.

Small Groups. The class will be divided into small groups of five or six, primarily for the purpose of discussing and presenting case studies (see below).

Exams. There will be three non-cumulative exams over the readings and lectures. [**Makeup:** Exams missed due to an excused absence are to be taken as soon as possible or else will be forfeited. It is your responsibility to see me about this.]

Discussion Forums. There are four discussion forums, each of which will require **one post** and **two comments** from you. The posts have a 400 word minimum, and comments a 100 word minimum (see the rubric on the web). These will be completed on Canvas.

Pre-Class Case Studies. There are eight case studies — due before class, either morning or afternoon, turned in on Canvas. These are due no later than 30 minutes before the start of class (thus, either 8:30 AM or 12:30 PM). Late entries are penalized. Please see the rubric posted on the class website.

Reflection Essays. We will view three films in class during the term, and you will need to write a brief essay on each of these, incorporating ideas and principles from the class as appropriate. (You will likely want to take notes while watching the film.)

Quizzes. There will be a quiz at the beginning of about one-half of the class sessions; these will concern the readings for that class session and material discussed the previous class session. The quizzes help keep us both informed of your grasp of the material. [**Makeup:** Missed quizzes can be made up in my office, but this has to occur before the next class meeting. It is entirely your responsibility to make this arrangement.]

Grading. The set of three exams is worth 45% (15% each); the set of discussion forums is worth 15%; the set of case studies is worth 20%, the set of three reflection essays is worth 10%, and the set of quizzes is worth 10%. I use the following letter grade conversion scale: A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), F (0-59).

Cell Phones. All cell phones must be turned off and put away (see me if you have an exceptional need). Thank you.

Laptops. I have yet to meet the student who took good notes on a laptop. Apart from that, various studies have shown that handwritten notes are much more conducive to learning, remembering, and synthesizing new information. Unless you have a documented disability that requires the use of a laptop or tablet, prepare to take notes the old fashioned way, with paper and pencil.



Student Disability and Reasonable Accommodation Policy — Medical Emergency/Evacuation Assistance Statement — Title IX Student Conduct Reporting Requirement: See the “Course Requirements” page of the web syllabus.

Cheating and Plagiarism: See the “Writing” page of the web syllabus.

SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSION AND READINGS

Ethics and Values

Thu, Jan 4 A

(1) What is Bioethics? (CSBE, pp. 1-7)

Thu, Jan 4 P

(2) Overview of Moral Theories (CSBE, pp. 8-16)

Fri, Jan 5 A

(3) A Model for Problem-Solving (CSBE, ch. 1)

Fri, Jan 5 P

(4) Values and Moral Judgment (CSBE, chs. 2-3)

Principles in Medical Ethics

Mon, Jan 8 A

(5) Benefiting the Patient and Others (CSBE, ch. 4)

Mon, Jan 8 P

(6) Distributive Justice (CSBE, ch. 5)

Tue, Jan 9 A

(7) Autonomy (CSBE, ch. 6)

Tue, Jan 9 P

(8) Veracity and Fidelity (CSBE, chs. 7-8)

Wed, Jan 10 A

Exam #1

Wed, Jan 10 P

(9) **Bioethics at the Movies:** *Wit* (2001; dir. Mike Nichols [1h 39m]).

Matters of Life and Death

Thu, Jan 11 A

(10) Killing and Letting Die (CSBE, ch. 9)

Thu, Jan 11 P

(11) Assisted Suicide (Callahan, "Self-Determination" [pdf])

Fri, Jan 12 A

(12) Death and the Incompetent (CSBE, ch. 18)

Fri, Jan 12 P

(13) Abortion: Whose Body? (Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion" [pdf])

Mon, Jan 15 A

(14) Abortion: Rights and Duties (CSBE, ch. 10)

Mon, Jan 15 P

(15) Impaired Infants (Engelhardt, "Ethical Issues" [pdf])

Tue, Jan 16 A

(16) Genetic Screening (CSBE, ch. 11)

Tue, Jan 16 P

(17) Surrogate Mothers (Steinbock, "Defining Parenthood" [pdf])

Wed, Jan 17 A

2nd Exam

Wed, Jan 17 P

(18) **Bioethics at the Movies:** *John Q* (2002; dir.: Nick Cassavetes [1h 56m])

Mental Health and Confidentiality

Thu, Jan 18 A

(19) Mental Health and Behavior Control (CSBE, ch. 12)

Thu, Jan 18 P

(20) Confidentiality (CSBE, ch. 13)

Allocating Scarce Resources

Fri, Jan 19 A

(21) Organ Transplants (CSBE, ch. 14)

Fri, Jan 19 P

(22) **Bioethics at the Movies:** *Extreme Measures* (1996; Dir.: Michael Apted [1h 58m]).

Mon, Jan 22 A

(23) Health Insurance (CSBE, ch. 15)

Mon, Jan 22 P

(24) Healthcare Rationing (Singer, "Why We Must Ration Health Care" [pdf])

Research and Treatment

Tue, Jan 23 A

(25) Experimentation on Human Subjects (CSBE, ch. 16)

Tue, Jan 23 P

(26) Research and the Public Good (Jonas, "Philosophical Reflections on Experimenting with Human Subjects" [pdf])

Wed, Jan 24 A

(27) Consent and Refusing Treatment (CSBE, ch. 17)

Wed, Jan 24 P

Exam #3