

PHIL 321 – Medical Ethics

Spring 2016, MWF 11-12

Instructor: Tristan Rogers

Classroom: Education 318

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Course website: <http://d2l.arizona.edu>

Office hours: (after class) 12 to 1:30 M/W, Social Sciences 130

Course description: In this course we will study ethical issues arising in the practice of medicine. Issues discussed include (but are not limited to) the nature of informed consent, the ethics of abortion, and the fair distribution of health care. In order to better understand these issues from a philosophical perspective, we begin with a survey of ethical theories and principles. Our aim is to understand the depth and complexity of medical ethics. Students can expect to become better acquainted with moral reasoning skills through class discussion and focussed writing assignments.

Course format: The course follows a M/W/F schedule. I will lecture on Monday and Wednesdays, while Fridays will be reserved for class discussion of the week's material. You are expected to come to class prepared, having carefully read the selection for that day. Preparation and participation are essential to doing well in the course, both in terms of course credit (see below) and developing your reasoning abilities.

My two weekly lectures will help you understand the readings and clarify difficult concepts, but they will not substitute for a close reading of the texts. Please bring your textbooks to class. We will aim to understand the main arguments, principles, and controversies during the week so that we can have informed and fruitful discussions on Friday.

Email policy: feel free to email me about small matters concerning the course. Anything of substance I prefer to discuss in person. This syllabus contains everything you will need to know about the mechanics of the course. It is your responsibility to acquaint yourself with it. Except in unusual circumstances, I will not respond to email questions that could be easily answered by consulting the syllabus.

Readings: All of the readings for this course are drawn from the following text, which is available in the university bookstore or the online bookseller of your choice.

Lewis Vaughn, *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*, 2nd ed. (Oxford UP, 2013)

Please make sure you have this edition. The first edition might be suitable, provided it contains all the planned reading selections. Be sure to check before buying.

Assessment:

10 % – Participation. Points will be earned *quantitatively* by consistently attending Friday discussion sessions for which attendance will be taken. Over the semester, I will also request each student to prepare discussion questions in advance of Friday's class for which credit will be given. Points will be earned *qualitatively* by participating meaningfully in class discussions either during the lectures or on Fridays. Meaningful participation consists of thoughtful questions, responses, or comments relevant to the discussion topic.

15% – Reading quizzes. There will be twelve unannounced reading quizzes during the semester. These will take place at the beginning of class and will consist of 5-6 multiple choice questions. They will be easy for those who have done that day's reading and difficult for those who have not. Your lowest two scores will be dropped. You cannot make up missed quizzes.

20% and 25% – Two short papers. There will be two 2-3 page papers due on February 19th and March 11th respectively. For the first you will be asked to explain in your own words the relevant issues and arguments. The second will be a short argumentative paper.

30 % – Final Paper (in lieu of final exam). There will be a 5 page argumentative paper due on May 4th. This will be an assignment in critical writing, where you defend a position on one of the major issues discussed in the course.

Please submit papers via the dropbox on D2L. They will be checked for plagiarism through turnitin.com

There is no final exam for this course.

Missed papers: I won't accept late papers without appropriate excusing circumstances. If you must submit a paper late due to an unavoidable conflict, illness, etc., where possible, you (or someone on your behalf) must notify me in advance of the expected due date, so that an alternate date may be arranged.

Academic dishonesty: You are expected to be familiar with the University's code of academic integrity, which can be found here: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>. If you are unsure about something, please ask me. Pleading ignorance is not an acceptable excuse, and I have a zero-tolerance policy toward plagiarism.

Academic freedom: Feel free to express your views to the fullest extent you feel comfortable with. It is not my job to teach you what I think. You will be assessed in accordance with how *well* you argue your view, not in accordance with whether I (or your classmates) agree with you.

Code of conduct: You are expected to be respectful toward your fellow students and myself. This course covers controversial and emotionally charged issues. If you are not comfortable rationally discussing them in a thoughtful and respectful way, you should not take the course.

Use of laptops and phones during lecture and/or discussion is prohibited.

These are great tools, but they can be destructive to the learning environment when abused, and it only takes a few students. I reserve the right to deduct participation credit from violators or eject from the course multiple offenders.

Accommodations: Those who require accommodations related to disabilities are instructed to first register with Disability Resources (520-621-3268; drc.arizona.edu).

Schedule of readings (all pgs. refer to our textbook):

NB: Subject to revision, if necessary

PART ONE – Medical Ethics and Moral Theories

Jan. 13 – Introduction to the course

Reading: pp. 3-13, optional: pp. 13-18

Jan. 15 – Argument Fundamentals

Reading: pp. 18-30

Assignment: p. 30, exercise 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 (do at least one argument from each section)

Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King Day, no class

Jan. 20 – Utilitarianism and Kantian ethics

Reading: pp. 33-39

Jan. 22 – Other theories & evaluation and application

Reading: pp. 39-50

PART TWO – Medical Professional and Patient: Paternalism and Informed Consent

Jan. 25 – Paternalism and Patient Autonomy

Reading: pp. 71-80

Jan. 27 – “Paternalism”, Dworkin

Reading: pp. 84-93

Jan. 29 – Discussion

Feb. 1 – “The Refutation of Medical Paternalism”, Goldman

Reading: pp. 93- 103

Feb. 3 – Bouvia v. Superior Court

Reading: pp. 109-113

Feb. 5 – Discussion

Feb. 8 – Informed Consent

Reading: pp. 180-185

Feb. 10 – “The Concept of Informed Consent”, Faden and Beauchamp

Reading: pp. 190-195

Feb. 12 – Discussion

Feb. 15 – “Transparency: Informed Consent in Primary Care”, Brody

Reading: pp. 205- 210

Feb. 17 – Canterbury v. Spence

Reading: pp. 217-220

Feb. 19 – Discussion

First Paper Due

PART THREE -- Life and Death: Abortion and Euthanasia

Feb. 22 – Abortion

Reading: pp. 291-303

Feb. 24 – “A Defense of Abortion”, Thomson

Reading: pp. 307-317

Feb. 26 – Discussion

Feb. 29 – “Why Abortion is Immoral”, Marquis

Reading: pp. 317-329

Mar. 2 – “On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion”, Warren

Reading: pp. 333-348

Mar. 4 – Discussion

Mar. 7 – Roe v. Wade

Reading: pp. 380-385

Mar. 9 – Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

Reading: 385-391

Mar. 11 – Discussion

Second Paper Due

SPRING BREAK

Mar. 21 – Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide

Reading: pp. 594-606

Mar. 23 – “Active and Passive Euthanasia”, Rachels

Reading: pp. 649-652

Mar. 25 – Discussion

Mar. 28 – “Voluntary Active Euthanasia”, Brock

Reading: pp. 614-625

Mar. 30 – “When Self-Determination Runs Amok”, Callahan

Reading: pp. 625-630

Apr. 1 – Discussion

Apr. 4 – “When Abstract Moralizing Runs Amok”, Lachs
Reading: pp. 630-634

Apr. 6 – *Vacco v. Quill & Washington v. Glucksberg*
Reading: pp. 669-677

Apr. 8 – Discussion, “The Philosophers’ Brief”
Reading: pp. 661-669

PART FOUR – Justice and Healthcare

Apr. 11 – Dividing Up Health Care Resources
Reading: pp. 681-692

Apr. 13 – “Is There a Right to Healthcare and, if so, What does it Encompass?”, Daniels
Reading: pp. 696-702

Apr. 15 – Discussion

Apr. 18 – “The Right to a Decent Minimum of Health Care”, Buchanan
Reading: pp. 703-708

Apr. 20 – “Rights to Healthcare, Social Justice, and Fairness in Healthcare Allocations”, Engelhardt
Reading: pp. 708- 716

Apr. 22 – Discussion

Apr. 25 – “Healthcare Reform: Lessons from Canada”
Reading: pp. 717-722

Apr. 27 – Affordable Care Act (pdf)
Reading: see D2L

Apr. 29 – Discussion

May 2 – ACA Supreme Court Case
Reading: see D2L

May 4 – TBD
Final Paper due