

PHIL 28: Ethics and Society II  
MW 12:00pm – 12:50pm, SOLIS 107  
Professor Gerald Doppelt



- **Office Hours:** Muir Campus H&SS 7013; Wednesday 3:00pm – 4:00pm Tel: (858) 534-2933.

**TAs:** Max Edwards (mvedwards@ucsd.edu)  
Tom Kirkpatrick (tbkirkpa@ucsd.edu)  
Justin Lawson (j1lawson@ucsd.edu)  
Joe Stratman (jtstratm@ucsd.edu)

**Required Texts:** 1) Cal Copy Spring 2016 Reader (hereafter referred to as ‘CC’)  
2) Philip Kitcher, *The Lives to Come: The Genetic Revolution and Human Possibilities*, Simon and Schuster (hereafter, ‘Kitcher’)  
3) Kristin Luker, *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*, UC Press (hereafter ‘Luker’)  
4) Criteria for Good Writers and the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship will be included at the end of the Cal Copy Reader. It is your responsibility to make sure you have read this material

**Themes of the course :**

In this course, we will explore central ethical and political issues raised by scientific and technological advance, and by the exercise of power in determining how it is used, and who decides. We will pay special attention to concrete contexts of political controversy in bio-medicine surrounding the morality of abortion, the right to die, the authority of patients and medical professionals in treatment decisions, the right distribution of medical care among the members of society, the risks of the human genome project, genetic testing and engineering, and the pursuit of the eugenically perfect human being. How do professionals, lay actors, social movements, technical innovations, legal developments, and new moral understandings interact to chart our vision of a future with richer human possibilities?

This course aims to stimulate students’ interest in these current ethical debates, and to inspire students to take responsibility as moral agents for acting on these issues in their lives.

**NOTE: This syllabus along with the two paper assignments and the midterm and final study guides will be posted on the Ted (<http://ted.ucsd.edu>) for this class.**

**Section Performance:** 10% (attendance, quizzes, and participation including performance on quizzes given in lecture) **Attendance will be taken in every lecture and every section meeting. Please note that you lose 2 points for each lecture or section that you miss**

All required texts are available through the UCSD Library’s course reserve system. These texts are available in the University Bookstore except for ‘CC 2016’, which is available at Cal Copy. Cal Copy is located on Villa La Jolla Village Drive, one block south of La Jolla Village Drive (behind Mobile gas station, across from Rock Bottom). The telephone number is (858) 452-9949.

**NOTE: All students must have the Spring 2016 Cal Copy Phil 28 Reader which must be cited by page number for ALL two papers.**

**Course outline**

**Week 1 :** What is Ethics? (And why do we need it, if we have sufficient scientific knowledge, technology and expertise?)

1. Leo Marx, “Does Improved Technology Mean Progress?” (CC)
2. Joy, “Why the Future Doesn’t Need Us” (CC)
3. Bass, “Abortion,” (CC)
4. Thompson, “A Defense of Abortion,” (CC)
5. Noonan, “How to Argue About Abortion,” (CC)

**First Paper Topic handed out in Wednesday’s lecture (3/30/16)**



**Week 2:** Ethics in Action: The Abortion Controversy and how it is affected by Technology, Law, and Politics

1. NewsWeek, “Should a Fetus Have Rights? How Science is Changing the Debate” (CC)
2. Glover, “Matters of Life and Death,” (CC)

**Week 3:** Cultural Roots of the Abortion Controversy (Pregnancy, Motherhood, and Womanhood: Conflicting world views in the abortion controversy)

1. Luker, “Women and the Right to Abortion” pp. 92-126.
2. Luker, “World Views of the Activists” pp. 158-191.
3. Luker, “Motherhood and Morality in America” pp. 192-215.

**First paper due at the start of Wednesday’s lecture (4/13/16)**

**Week 4:** Medical Paternalism, The Role of Physicians and Patients in Treatment Decisions (Is following the Doctors orders the right decision?)

1. Goldman, “Medical Ethics: The Goal of Health and the Rights of Patients,” (CC).
2. Groopman, “False Hope, True Hope” & “The Right to Hope” (CC)

**Second Paper Topic handed out in Monday’s lecture (4/18/16)**

**Midterm Study Guide handed out in Wednesday’s lecture (4/20/16)**

**Week 5:** Rational Treatment Decisions: Ignorance of Outcomes, Outcomes Research, Overdiagnosis, and The Right to Die Debate (When is the best treatment no treatment and when is the best test no test?)

1. Rothman, “New Rules for the Bedside: Strangers at the Bedside” (CC).
2. Wennberg, “AHCPR and the Strategy for Health Care Reform,” (CC).
3. Hochman and McCormick, “Medicine in the Dark” (CC)
4. Harris, *The New York Times*, “US Panel Says No To Prostate Test” (CC)
5. Pollack, *The New York Times*, “Looser Guidelines Issues on Prostate Screening” (CC)
6. Welch, Schwartz & Woloshin, “Overdiagnosed: Making People Sick in the Pursuit of Health” (CC)
7. Grady, *The New York Times*, “Ovarian Cancer Screenings are Not Effective, Panel Says” (CC)
8. Saul, *The New York Times*, “Prone to Error: Earliest Steps to Find Cancer” (CC)
9. Morin, *The Los Angeles Times*, “Study questions value of mammography screening” (CC)
10. Healy, *The Los Angeles Times*, “Routine pelvic exam should be discontinued” (CC)

**Week 6:** The Medicalization of Human Problems and the Expansion of the Sick Role

1. Ehrenreichs, “Medicine and Social Control,” (CC).
2. Tavis, “The Mismeasure of Women (Misdiagnosing the Mind) (CC)

**MIDTERM on Wednesday (5/4/16)**

**Week 7:** Ethics and the Human Genome: Genetic testing in The Age of Predictive Medicine (Who wants to know, if there is no cure or treatment?)

1. Kitcher, “The Shapes of Suffering” pp. 13-22.
2. Bishop, “Predictive Medicine” (CC)
3. Kitcher, “To Test or Not to Test?” pp. 65-87.

**Week 8:** What is the right way to distribute Healthcare and should people with heritable/genetic illnesses be at a disadvantage?

1. Kitcher, “The New Pariahs?” pp. 127-157.
2. Sade, “Is Healthcare a Right?” (CC)

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3. Weinstein and Stason, “Allocating Resources: The Case of Hypertension” (CC)
4. Starr, “The Affordable Care Act as Public Philosophy” (CC)

**Second paper due before lecture on Wednesday (5/18/16)**

**Week 9:** Are eugenic decisions concerning who will be born oppressive or liberating?

1. Kitcher, “Interlude: The Specters That Won’t Go Away” and “Inescapable Eugenics” pp. 181-205.
2. Kitcher, “Delimiting Disease” and “The Quality of Lives” pp. 205-221, 285-309.
3. Johnson, “Should I Have Been Killed at Birth? The Case for my life,” (CC).
4. Harman, “In New Tests for Fetal Defects, Agonizing Choices for Parents” and “As Genes Test Menu Grows, Who Gets to Choose?” (CC)

**Final Study Guided handed out in Monday’s lecture (5/23/16)**

**Week 10:** Technological Utopia and Dystopia: Are human beings replaceable by something better?  
(Designer Babies and Perfect People)

**Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day—No lecture**

1. Stock, “The Enhanced and the Un-Enhanced” (CC)
2. Sandel, “The Case Against Perfection” (CC)

**Course Requirements:**

Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections, to sign attendance rosters, and to remain in class until the lecture or discussion is complete. Students whose final grade for the whole class is on the border between A and A-, A- and B+, B+ and B, etc., will be awarded the higher grade based on attendance in lecture and section and occasional quizzes in lecture and sections. Grades for this course are based on two papers, a midterm and final exam, performance in discussion section, excellent attendance, and quizzes.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

First Paper: 20%  
Second Paper: 20%  
Midterm Exam: 20%  
Final Exam: 30%

**Section Performance:** 10% (attendance, quizzes, and participation including performance on quizzes given in lecture) **Attendance will be taken in every lecture and every section meeting. Please note that you lose 2 points for each lecture or section that you miss.**

Papers are based on assigned topics and are about 7-8 pages in length, and must include at least 15-18 page references to the texts to document points of exposition and criticism. All papers are to be written entirely in your own words with no quotations and no copying of sentences, paragraphs, or major sentence fragments from our texts or any texts at all.

Discussion Sections: Your grade in discussion section (10% of final grade) depends on attendance, preparation, civility, cooperation, verbal participation, creative leadership, and quizzes in lecture and section.

**Schedule of Assignments**

**Week 1** First paper topic handed out in lecture on Wednesday

**Week 3** First paper due before lecture on Wednesday at 12:00pm

**Week 4** Second paper topic handed out in lecture on Monday  
Midterm study guided handed out on Wednesday

**Week 6** Midterm on Wednesday

**Week 8** Second Paper due before lecture on Wednesday at 12:00pm

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**Week 9** Final study guide handed out on Monday

Final on **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 11:30am-2:29pm**

**Policy on missed exams and late assignments**

A late paper is marked down one grade and the student must get the consent of her/his TA about when the later paper is handed in, typically within 2-5 days of the original due date. Make-up papers must be arranged as soon as possible after illness, injury, or family emergency. The policy on make-up follows UCSD policy, since there are strict calendar deadlines established by the University for the submission of grades at the end of a quarter. Sudden long-term illness, injury, or family emergency may necessitate an incomplete for the course, or withdrawal from it. Excuses and incompletes must be negotiated with your TA and the course instructor(s) prior to the final exam.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

UCSD has a university-wide Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, online at <http://registrar.ucsd.edu/records/grdbk3.html>. All students must read and be familiar with this Policy. Receipt of this syllabus constitutes an acknowledgment that you are responsible for understanding and acting in accordance with UCSD guidelines on academic integrity.

Academic stealing refers to the theft of papers or take home exams composed by others, or data collected by others. Academic cheating, collusion, and fraud refer to having others do your schoolwork or allowing them to present your work as their own; inventing data or bibliography to support a paper; purchasing papers from any source whatsoever; submitting (nearly) identical papers to two classes. Plagiarism refers to the use of another's work without full acknowledgment, whether by suppressing the reference, neglecting to identify direct quotations, paraphrasing closely or at length without citing sources, spuriously identifying quotations or data, or cutting and pasting the work of several (usually unidentified) authors into a single undifferentiated whole.

**PLAGIARISM POLICY**

All papers will be written entirely in the student's own words and no paragraph, sentence or sentence fragment will come from our text or any other sources. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Papers will be submitted to turnitin.com to ensure fairness and honesty. Your paper will include no direct quotations but must include citations indicating where the idea being discussed is located in our text. There will be 15-18 citations per paper. The paper must be based on the class readings. Any plagiarism or academic dishonesty on any paper or exam may result in a 'F' for the whole course and academic probation, suspension by Sixth College, or expulsion from UCSD.

**TURNITIN.COM**

All papers must be submitted to Turnitin via Ted. To turn in your paper go to the course Ted (<http://ted.ucsd.edu>) and find the link under 'Content'. After you have uploaded your paper a confirmation page will appear. Keep a copy of the confirmation page for your records in case your electronic submission is di