

Phil 173: Topics in Bioethics (Provisional)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2:00

WLH 2115

Instructor:

Reuven Brandt

Office: HSS 8029

Office Hours: Th. 2-4

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Course description:

This course will focus on questions that arise in the domain of human reproduction. We will begin by examining whether coming into existence can be a harm, and if reproduction is morally permissible at all. Next we will look at how responsibilities to offspring arise, what value genetic relationships have and what implication this has for assisted reproduction. Next we will look at the permissibility of surrogacy and what implications it has for accounts of parenthood. This will transition us into an examination of the acquisition of parental rights. Lastly we will examine the right to reproduce. There is one lecture spot left open for a topic of the class' choosing.

Readings (All available on the course website)

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 0	N/A	Sep 26 Intro – no readings
Week 1	Oct 1 “The Non-identity problem” <i>Parfit</i>	Oct 3 “Wrongful life and the counterfactual element in harming” <i>Feinberg</i>
Week 2	Oct 8 “Wrongful life, procreative responsibility, and the significance of harm” <i>Shiffrin</i>	Oct 10 “Why Coming into Existence Is Always a Harm” <i>Benatar</i> (From <i>Better to Have Never Been</i>)
Week 3	Oct 15 Fuscaldo, Giuliana. "Genetic ties: are they morally binding?." <i>Bioethics</i> 20.2 (2006): 64-76.	Oct 17 Weinberg, Rivka. "The moral complexity of sperm donation." <i>Bioethics</i> 22.3 (2008): 166-178.
Week 4	Oct 22 Midterm	Oct 24 Velleman, J. David. "The gift of life." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 36.3 (2008): 245-266.

Week 5	Oct 29 Haslanger, Sally. "Family, ancestry and self: what is the moral significance of biological ties?." <i>Adoption & Culture</i> 2 (2009): 91-122.	Oct 31 Francis, L., & Cohen, I. (2017-02-28). Sperm and Egg Donor Anonymity: Legal and Ethical Issues. In <i>The Oxford Handbook of Reproductive Ethics</i> . : Oxford University Press
Week 6	Nov 5 Melo-Martín, Inmaculada De. "The ethics of anonymous gamete donation: is there a right to know one's genetic origins?." <i>Hastings Center Report</i> 44.2 (2014): 28-35. Ravitsky, Vardit. "Autonomous choice and the right to know one's genetic origins." <i>Hastings Center Report</i> 44.2 (2014): 36-37.	Nov 7 Kornegay, R. Jo. "Is Commercial Surrogacy Baby-selling?." <i>Journal of applied philosophy</i> 7.1 (1990): 45-50. Anderson, Elizabeth S. "Is women's labor a commodity?." <i>Philosophy & public affairs</i> (1990): 71-92.
Week 7	Nov 12 Straehle, Christine. "Is there a right to surrogacy?." <i>Journal of Applied Philosophy</i> 33.2 (2016): 146-159.	Nov 14 Steinbock, Bonnie. "Surrogate motherhood as prenatal adoption." <i>Law, Medicine and Health Care</i> 16.1-2 (1988): 44-50. Gheaus, Anca. "Biological parenthood: gestational, not genetic." <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> 96.2 (2018): 225-240. PAPER DUE FRIDAY
Week 8	Nov 19 Millum, Joseph. "How do we acquire parental rights?." <i>Social theory and practice</i> 36.1 (2010): 112.	Nov 21 *Open*
Week 9	Nov 26 Quigley, Muireann. "A right to reproduce?." <i>Bioethics</i> 24.8 (2010): 403-411.	Nov 28 No Class

Week 10	Dec 3 Overall, C. (2014-07-03). What is the Value of Procreation?. In Family-Making: Contemporary Ethical Challenges. : Oxford University Press.	Dec 5 Review/leftover business
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Assessment:

Online reading quiz (3): 15%

Midterm: 20% (Oct. 22)

Paper 1: 30% (Due Fri Nov 15 at 11:59PM)

Take-home final: 35% (Due 11:59 Friday Dec 13)

Note: There is no sit-down final!

Late Policy:

Late reading quizzes will not be accepted. If you have proper grounds for academic accommodation for a missed quiz (illness, family emergency, religious observance, significant personal distress, etc.) contact me and alternative arrangements will be made.

In the absence of grounds for academic accommodation late essays will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day. Papers more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

Take-home Final: Late take-home finals will not be accepted without permission from the instructor, and the above penalty may be applied. An 'I' grade may be temporarily issued in such cases.

General Policies:

- Readings are subject to minor adjustments.
- I reserve the right to limit and/or prohibit the use of laptops, mobile phones, and other electronic devices at any point during the term if I judge that such devices are impeding concentration.
- If you require any form of accommodation on the grounds of disability please make sure you have registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities and have followed their guidelines for alerting instructors to your particular needs. The university's policy on the accommodation of disability can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/3> Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind

Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.
858.534.4382 (phone) | osd@ucsd.edu (email) | <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (website)

- If you require any accommodation on religious grounds, please alert me in writing as soon as possible. The university's policy on religious accommodation can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/operating-procedures/educational-policies/courses/epc-policies-on-courses/policy-exams-including-midterms-final-exams-and-religious-accommodations-for-exams/>
- All instances of academic offences including plagiarism, cheating on exams, and multiple submission of work, will be handled in accordance with official UCSD policy, which can be found here: <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/excel-integrity/index.html>. Please read the policy and ensure that you understand it.

"Academic Integrity is expected of everyone at UC San Diego. This means that you must be honest, fair, responsible, respectful, and trustworthy in all of your actions. Lying, cheating or any other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated because they undermine learning and the University's ability to certify students' knowledge and abilities. Thus, any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in this class and suspension or dismissal from the University. So, think carefully before you act by asking yourself: a) is what I'm about to do or submit for credit an honest, fair, respectful, responsible & trustworthy representation of my knowledge and abilities at this time and, b) would my instructor approve of my action? You are ultimately the only person responsible for your behavior. So, if you are unsure, don't ask a friend—ask your instructor, instructional assistant, or the Academic Integrity Office. You can learn more about academic integrity at academicintegrity.ucsd.edu" (Source: Academic Integrity Office, 2018)