Seminar Description:

This seminar is an introductory survey of ethical questions that arise in the domain of family-making. In the first part of the course we will look at various accounts of the conditions that give rise to parental responsibilities. In the second section we will look at the philosophical basis for parental rights, and what parents owe their children. In the final section of the course we will look at criticisms of the institution of marriage and examine what role, if any, the state should have in governing this kind of intimate personal relationship.

Evaluation:

Seminar participation: 10%
Each student is expected to arrive having read the readings and prepared to discuss them. If possible, please inform me of any absences ahead of time.

Presentations: 20%
Each student must give two presentations geared towards guiding class discussion. Each student presentation will have two parts: 20-30 min of presentation about one of the readings followed by 20-30 min of discussion guided by the student. Only the better presentation will count towards your final grade.

Paper(s): 70%
Choice of either, (a) one 4000-5000 word final paper worth 70% due at the end of the day Friday Dec. 13th, or (b) two 2500-3000 words papers, one due by the end of the day November 8th, the other due by the end of the day Friday Dec. 13th. Essays must substantially engage with at least one of the required readings and topics must be approved by me in advance.

Accommodation:

If you require any accommodation (religious, medical, disability, etc.) please alert me in writing as soon as possible and I'll be more than happy to assist.
Course readings (all available online)

Oct 1

Introductions


Oct 8

Fuscaldo, Giuliana. "Genetic ties: are they morally binding?." *Bioethics* 20.2 (2006): 64-76.


Recommended:


Oct 15


Recommended


Oct 22


**Recommended**


**Oct 29**


**Nov 5**


**Recommended:**


**Nov 12**


Recommended:


Nov 19


Recommended:


Nov 26


Dec 3
