

Phil 163: Biomedical Ethics (Provisional) Winter 2019

Instructor:

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 Office Hours: Mon 9:30-10:30AM; Thur 12-1PM
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Teaching assistants:

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Course description:

In this course we will be examining various questions that arise in biomedical ethics. The purpose of the course is to provide an overview of ongoing debates in contemporary biomedical ethics, while at the same time developing students' critical thinking and analytic skills. We will start by examining the concept of harm and how it is used in debates about reproduction and genetic enhancement. We will then look at questions about autonomy, human agency, and the intentional ending of life. Finally, we will examine questions about the just distribution of healthcare.

Readings (All available on the course website)

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	Jan 8 Intro	Jan 10 <i>"Principlism and its alleged competitors"</i> <i>Beauchamp;</i> <i>"In praise of unprincipled ethics"</i> <i>Harris</i>
Week 2	Jan 15 <i>"Wrongful life and the counterfactual element in harming"</i> <i>Feinberg</i>	Jan 17 <i>"The Non-identity problem"</i> <i>Parfit</i> <i>"Wrongful life, procreative responsibility, and the significance of harm"</i> <i>Shiffrin</i>

Week 3	Jan 22 "Why Coming into Existence Is Always a Harm" <i>Benatar</i> (From <i>Better to Have Never Been</i>)	Jan 24 "The moral obligation to create children with the best chance of the best life" <i>Savulescu</i> and <i>Kahane</i> "Future People, Disability, and Screening" <i>Glover</i>
Week 4	Jan 29 "The fallacy of the principle of procreative beneficence" <i>Bennett</i>	Jan 31 "What is and is not wrong with enhancement" <i>Kamm</i>
Week 5	Feb 5 "Why abortion is immoral" <i>Don Marquis</i> "A Defense of abortion" <i>J..J Thompson</i>	Feb 7 "On the legal and moral status of abortion" <i>Marry Anne Warren</i>
Week 6	Feb 12 "Active and Passive Euthanasia" <i>Rachels</i> "Physician-assisted suicide, the doctrine of double-effect, and the ground of value" <i>Kamm</i>	Feb 14 Euthanasia, Ethics and Public Policy: An Argument Against Legalisation (excerpt), <i>Keown</i> "The Logical Slippery Slope is Neither Slippery Nor Logical" <i>Brandt</i>
Week 7	Feb 19 Against autonomy : Justifying Coercive Paternalism, ch.1 + 2 <i>Conly</i>	Feb 21 "Informed consent and relational conceptions of autonomy", <i>Stoljar</i>
Week 8	Feb 26 "Selling Yourself: Titmuss's Argument Against a Market in Blood" <i>Archard</i> "What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets" <i>Sandel</i>	Feb 28 "Is the sale of body parts wrong?" <i>Savulescu</i> "The Kidney Trade: or, the customer is always wrong" <i>Brecher</i>

Week 9	Mar 5 "Autonomy, constraining options, and organ sales. <i>Stacey</i> "Markets and the needy: Organ sales or aid?" <i>Zutlevics</i>	Mar 7 Special Topic (TBD)
Week 10	Mar 12 "Is There a Right to Health Care and, if so, What Does It Encompass?" <i>Daniels</i> "Rights to Health Care, Social Justice, and Fairness in Health Care Allocations: Frustrations in the Face of Finitude"	Mar 14 US health system Review

Assessment:

Section attendance and participation: 10%

Paper 1: 20% (Due Feb 8 at 11:59PM)

Paper 2: 35% (Due March 1st at 11:59PM)

Take-home final: 35% (Due 11:59 March 20th)

Note: There is no sit-down final

Late Policy:

Papers 1 and 2: Unexcused late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day. Work submitted 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. Submission after March 23rd is not possible unless a request for academic accommodation is granted. Possible grounds for such accommodation include serious illness and family disasters. An 'I' grade may be issued temporarily in such cases. Rescheduling as a result of a religious obligation is governed by the UCSD Policy on Religious Accommodation.

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: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>. Please read the policy and ensure that you understand it.