

**Phil 173: Topics in Bioethics (Provisional)**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:50 CSB 001

**Instructor:** Reuven Brandt  
Office: Arts and Humanities Bld 0497  
Office Hours: In-person: Thr. 2-3PM  
Zoom: Mon. 10-11AM  
Email: [rabrandt@ucsd.edu](mailto:rabrandt@ucsd.edu)

**TAs**

Ying Liu <a href="mailto:yil065@ucsd.edu">yil065@ucsd.edu</a> Office: Arts and Humanities Building 0454 Students (by last name): Lis - ZZZ  Office Hours: See Canvas	Sam Delorme <a href="mailto:sdelorme@ucsd.edu">sdelorme@ucsd.edu</a> Office: Arts and Humanities Building 0433 Students (by last name): AAA-Lin  Office Hours: See Canvas
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**Optional Discussion Group (Recommended!)**

Tue & Thr, 2PM-3PM, Arts and Humanities Building 0474  
Zoom edition: See Canvas  
Leader: Damon Kalokerinos  
Email: [dkalokerinos@ucsd.edu](mailto:dkalokerinos@ucsd.edu)

**Course description:**

This course will focus on questions that arise in the domain of human reproduction. We will begin with an examination of the non-identity problem, which will serve as a departure point for a discussion about harm and procreative duties. Next we will look at how responsibilities to offspring arise, what value genetic relationships have and what implications such questions have for assisted reproduction. We will then look at complex cases including surrogacy, and mitochondrial donation. Lastly, we will examine the moral value of reproduction. There is one lecture spot left open for a topic of the class's choosing.

**Readings (All available on the course website)**

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	<b>April 1<sup>st</sup></b> No readings	<b>April 3rd</b> "The Non-identity problem" Excerpt from <i>Reasons and Persons</i> (Read sections 120-125 on p.355-371)
Week 2	<b>April 8th</b> Magnusson, Erik. "Children's rights and the non-identity problem." <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> 49.5 (2019): 580-605.	<b>April 10th</b> Noggle, Robert. "Impossible obligations and the non-identity problem." <i>Philosophical Studies</i> 176.9 (2019): 2371-2390.

Week 3	<b>April 15th</b> Shiffrin, Seana Valentine. "Wrongful life, procreative responsibility, and the significance of harm." <i>Legal Theory</i> 5.2 (1999): 117-148.	<b>April 17th</b> Catch up / review
Week 4	<b>April 22<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>Midterm I</b>  <b>Bring paper/blue book</b>	<b>April 24<sup>th</sup></b> Weinberg, Rivka. "The moral complexity of sperm donation." <i>Bioethics</i> 22.3 (2008): 166-178.  Millum, Joseph. "How do we acquire parental responsibilities?." <i>Social Theory and Practice</i> 34.1 (2008): 71.
Week 5	<b>April 29<sup>th</sup></b> Brake, Elizabeth. "Fatherhood and child support: Do men have a right to choose?." <i>Journal of Applied Philosophy</i> 22.1 (2005): 55-73.	<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b> Velleman, J. David. "The gift of life." <i>Philosophy &amp; Public Affairs</i> 36.3 (2008): 245-266.  Haslanger, Sally. "Family, ancestry and self: what is the moral significance of biological ties?." <i>Adoption &amp; Culture</i> 2 (2009): 91-122.
Week 6	<b>May 6<sup>th</sup></b> 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.	<b>May 8<sup>th</sup></b> Gheaus, Anca. "Biological parenthood: gestational, not genetic." <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> 96.2 (2018): 225-240.
Week 7	<b>May 13<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Midterm II</b>  <b>Bring Paper/Blue book</b>	<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b> Anderson, Elizabeth S. "Is women's labour a commodity?." <i>Philosophy &amp; public affairs</i> (1990): 71-92.  <i>Recommended:</i> Steinbock, Bonnie. "Surrogate motherhood as prenatal adoption." <i>Law, Medicine and Health Care</i> 16.1-2 (1988): 44-50.
Week 8	<b>May 20th</b> Wrigley, Anthony, Stephen Wilkinson, and John B. Appleby. "Mitochondrial replacement: ethics and identity." <i>Bioethics</i> 29.9 (2015): 631-638.	<b>May 22nd</b> Brandt, Reuven. "Mandatory sex selection and mitochondrial transfer." <i>Bioethics</i> 32.7 (2018): 437-444.  Appleby, John B. "The ethical challenges of the clinical introduction of mitochondrial

	Lewens, Tim. "The fragility of origin essentialism: Where mitochondrial 'replacement' meets the non-identity problem." <i>Bioethics</i> 35.7 (2021): 615-622.	replacement techniques." <i>Medicine, health care and philosophy</i> 18 (2015): 501-514
Week 9	<b>May 27th</b>  Open topic!	<b>May 29th</b> Overall, C. (2014-07-03). What is the Value of Procreation?. In <i>Family-Making: Contemporary Ethical Challenges</i> . : Oxford University Press.
Week 10	<b>June 3rd</b> Gheaus, Anca. "Could there ever be a duty to have children." <i>Permissible progeny? The morality of procreation and parenting</i> (2015): 87-106.	<b>June 5th</b> Review

### Assessment:

Canvas reflections: 10% (2 X 5% each, dates TBD)

Midterm I: 20% (April 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Midterm II: 30% (May 13)

Final Exam: 40% (Take-home – **due June 12, 11:59 PM**)

Letter Grade	From	To
A+	97	100
A	93	96.99999
A-	90	92.99999
B+	87	89.99999
B	83	86.99999
B-	80	82.99999
C+	77	79.99999
C	73	76.99999
C-	70	72.99999
D	55	69.99999
F	0	54.99999

### General Policies:

- **Regrading:** If you would like to dispute the grade you receive, first make an appointment to do so with your TA. As this meeting you'll be asked to provide reasons for why the essay

deserves a better grade. If you cannot reach an agreement with your TA, you can have me regrade the paper. Note though that I reserve the right to give assign a lower grade than the one given by the TA (this is rare, but it is a possibility).

- **Course recordings:** I will strive to record lectures and post them on Canvas. Barring special circumstances (reasons that might justify academic accommodations), recordings will be available for 48 hours after they are posted. ***Downloading, copying, and reproducing lecture recordings without my explicit consent are all strictly prohibited and will be treated as violations of academic integrity.***
- 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](mailto: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*

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*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](https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu)” (Source: Academic Integrity Office, 2018*