

Biomedical Ethics Fall 2017

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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 usefulness of the 'four principles' approach to bioethics that is often appealed to in clinical settings. Next we will look at the concept of harm and how it is used in debates about reproduction and genetic enhancement. Following the midterm we will 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)

Week 1	Jan 9 - Intro	Jan 11 – “Medical ethics: four principles plus attention to scope” <i>Raanan Gillon</i> ;	Jan 13 – “Principlism and its alleged competitors” <i>Tom L. Beauchamp</i> ; “In praise of unprincipled ethics” <i>J Harris</i>
Week 2	Jan 16 - No Class	Jan 18 - “Wrongful life and the counterfactual element in harming” <i>Joel Feinberg</i>	Jan 20 – “The Non-identity problem” <i>Derek Parfit</i>
Week 3	Jan 23 - “Wrongful life, procreative responsibility, and the significance of harm” <i>Seana Shiffrin</i>	Jan 25 – “The moral obligation to create children with the best chance of the best life” <i>Julian Savulescu and Guy Kahane</i>	Jan 27 – “The case against perfection” (excerpt) <i>Michael Sandel</i> Midterm Questions Assigned
Week 4	Jan 30 - “Causing Disabled People to Exist and Causing People to Be Disabled” <i>Jeff McMahan</i>	Feb 1 – No new reading	Feb 3 - In class midterm
Week 5	Feb 6 – “A Defense of abortion” <i>J..J Thompson</i> (Essay questions assigned)	Feb 8 “On the legal and moral status of abortion” <i>Marry Anne Warren</i>	Feb 10 “Why abortion is immoral” <i>Don Marquis</i>
Week 6	Feb 13 - Against autonomy : Justifying Coercive Paternalism, ch.1 <i>Sarah Conly</i>	Feb 15 - Against Autonomy : Justifying Coercive Paternalism, ch 2. <i>Sarah Conly</i>	Feb 17 – “Informed consent and relational conceptions of autonomy”, <i>Natalie Stoljar</i>

Week 7	Feb 20 – No Class	Feb 22 - “Guinea pigs on the payroll: The ethics of paying research subjects”, <i>Trudo Lemmens & Carl Elliott</i>	Feb 24 - “Exploitation in payments to research subjects” <i>Trisha Phillips</i>
Week 8	Feb 27 – What money can’t buy (excerpt) <i>Michael Sandel</i> (Short Essay Due)	March 1 – “HeLa Cells and Unjust Enrichment in the Human Body” <i>Deleso A. Alford, J.D., LL.M</i>	March 3 “Physician-assisted suicide, the doctrine of double-effect, and the ground of value” <i>F.M. Kamm</i> (Final essay topics assigned)
Week 9	March 6 – Euthanasia, Ethics and Public Policy: An Argument Against Legalisation (excerpt), <i>John Keown</i>	March 8 - “A Case for justified non-voluntary active euthanasia: exploring the ethics of the groningen protocol” <i>B. A. Manninen</i>	March 10 – “Individual autonomy and state involvement in health care” <i>Thomas Rice</i>
Week 10	March 13 – Just Health (excerpt) <i>Norman Daniels</i>	March 15 Just Health (excerpt) <i>Norman Daniels</i>	March 17 - review

Assessment:

Section attendance: 5%

In-class midterm: 20% (Feb 3rd)

Short Essay: 30% (Due Feb 27th)

Final Essay: 45% (due March 24th)

Guidelines:

- 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 - including access to electronic devices during lecture - 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>
- 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.