

BIOETHICS (PHIL 227)
Spring 2012

PROFESSOR

Martin Gunderson

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Bioethics concerns ethical issues that arise in medical practice, healthcare policy, public health, and biomedical research. In this course we will discuss ethical issues that arise concerning informed consent, medical research with humans, genetic testing, the distribution of scarce healthcare resources, assisted reproduction, and euthanasia.

TEXTS

Ronald Munson, ed., *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 9th edition.

Lewis Vaughn, *Writing Philosophy: A Student's Guide to Writing Philosophy Essays*

CLASS SCHEDULE

1-23: Introduction

Physicians, Patients, and Others

1-25: Cases and Contexts (3-17)

1-27: Cases and Contexts (17-37)

- 1-30: Briefing Session (38-53)
- 2-1: Essays on Paternalism by O'Neill and Dworkin (53-69)
- 2-3: Cowart and Burt Dialogue (69-73)
- 2-6: Essays on Children and Consent by Diekema and Hord et al (87-96)
- 2-8: Essays by Catlin and Rosam (96-103)

Biomedical Research and Consent

- 2-10: Cases and Contexts, especially the Willowbrook Case (110-136)
Also read about the Tuskegee Study (774-777)
- 2-13: Briefing Session (137-160)
- 2-15: Essays on Willowbrook and Codes (163-174)
- 2-17: Essays on the Ethics of Clinical Trials (180-191)
- 2-20: Essays on the Right to Experimental Drugs (191-196)

Genetic Issues

- 2-22: Cases and Contexts (217-259)
- 2-24: Briefing Session (259-280)
- FIRST PAPER DUE**
- 2-27: Essays on Genetic Choice by McMahan and Davis (281-294)
- 2-29: Essay on Genetic Selection by Savulescu (294-300)
- 3-2: Essays on Genetics and Abortion by Botkin and Kass (301-316)

Reproductive Issues

- 3-5: Cases and Contexts (331-354)
- 3-7: Briefing Session (354-372)
- 3-9: Essays Assisted Reproduction by Minkoff and Ecker, and Cohen (373-387)

Spring Break

- 3-19: Essay on Savior Siblings by Sheldon and Wilkinson (394-401)
- 3-21: Essays on Surrogate Pregnancy by Steinbock and Anderson (411-425)

Scarce Medical Resources

- 3-23: Case and Contexts (620-638)
- 3-26: Briefing Session (638-644)

SECOND PAPER DUE

- 3-28: Essays on Organ Recipients by Apple, Sade and Cohen (645-653)
- 3-30: Essays on Acquiring Organs (653-662)
- 4-2: Continued Discussion on Allocating Organs
- 4-4: Essay on Allocating Organs by Emanuel and Wertheimer (666-669)

Distributing Health Care

- 4-6: Cases and Contexts (675-688)
- 4-9: Briefing Session (689-694)
- 4-11: Essays on the Right to Health Care (694-713)
- 4-13: Essays on Equality and Health Care (713-724)
- 4-16: Continued Discussion of Justice-Rights and Health Care

HIV/ AIDS Epidemic

- 4-18: Cases and Contexts (811-829)
- 4-20: Briefing Session (829-835)
- 4-23: No Class

THIRD PAPER DUE

- 4-25: Essays on Responsibility and Confidentiality (835-843)
- 4-27: Essays on AIDS Trails in Africa (844-849)

4-30: Continued Discussion of HIV/AIDS

REQUIREMENTS

First Paper (Feb. 24)

30% of Grade

The paper may be on any topic in bioethics. Most papers are about 8-10 pages in length. The paper may not, however, be shorter than 1,500 words or longer than 3,000 words not including footnotes. Note that each of the papers required for the course will be graded on the basis of content, organization, clarity and mechanics such as grammar and spelling. What matters most, however, is the philosophical analysis. [See my essay on writing philosophy papers.]

Second Paper (March 26)

30% of Grade

The second paper should also be a topic in bioethics that differs from your first paper.

Third Paper (April 23)

30% of Grade

This paper should be a rewritten version of one of your first two papers. Turn in a copy of your first paper and a brief memo stating how you revised it. In addition to content, organization, clarity and mechanics the grade will be based on the quality of the revisions. Because of this, the revised paper could receive a lower grade than the original.

Class Participation

10% of Grade

Class participation should reflect your knowledge of the readings and advance the class discussion.

SOME POLICIES

Students who want an incomplete must petition for the incomplete in writing. The petition must include an incomplete form with your signature and suggested dates for completion of the work.

Grades for papers will be reduced by one grade point for each day they are late.

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please meet with the Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, who will serve as the coordinator for services for students with disabilities. It is important to meet with her at the beginning of the semester to ensure that your accommodations are approved and in place to begin the semester successfully. The Associate Dean can be reached in the Office of Student Affairs, 119 Weyerhaeuser, by phone at 651-696-6220, or email llandrem@macalester.edu.