

University of South Florida Spring 2014

PHI3633 003 Biomedical Ethics
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 am
SOC152
3 Credits

Ms. Christine Wieseler
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Philosophy Dept., FAO 232
Mailbox: FAO 246
Office Hours: Tues and Thurs
11am-12pm or by appointment

Course Description

Bioethics deals with concerns of moral significance encountered throughout the human lifespan. In this course, you will develop an understanding of ethical theories and principles. You will use this theoretical grounding to evaluate moral concerns regarding topics including: relationships between doctors and patients, research on human subjects, choices related to reproduction, euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, and justice and health care.

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate understanding of ethical frameworks, including their benefits and limitations for thinking about issues of moral significance within medical practice and clinical research.
2. Communicate effectively about issues within bioethics through dialogue and written assignments (e.g. clearly articulate and defend a position, formulate philosophical questions, identify counterexamples).
3. Understand the significance of socio-historical context for the emergence and continuing development of the field of bioethics.
4. Reflect on one's own moral values and positions throughout the semester.

Required Text

Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases 2nd edition by Lewis Vaughn, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 978-0-19-979623-6

Additional assigned readings will be made available to students via Canvas or through provided links. Students are expected to complete the readings *prior* to coming to class on the day for which they are assigned. Students are required to bring the textbook and/or paper copies of readings to class.

Students Requiring Accommodations

I would encourage students with disabilities to consult with me as soon as possible, preferably at the beginning of the semester. Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations such as extra time to take exams, an alternate format, or a note-taker. If you think you might have a disability, SDS may be able to assist you. SDS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation needs at least 5 business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from SDS must accompany this request.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all class meetings is required. Attendance will count for 10% (100 points) of your grade for the course. You will be allowed 3 absences. Any more than that will result in a 50-point reduction in your final grade (for 4-5 absences) or a 100-point reduction in the case that you miss 6 or more classes. If you are tardy for class, (meaning you arrive after 9:30am) each instance will count as a half absence.

Missing class will impact your grade in at least two additional ways. First, there will be frequent quizzes and other in-class assignments that count toward your grade for the course. If you are not in class, you cannot complete these assignments. Secondly, the purpose of lecture and class discussion is to help you to have a greater understanding of the course material and to prepare you for assignments and exams. Learning is a collaborative process. If you are not in class, you will miss important opportunities to learn concepts and develop skills that you will need to demonstrate in order to pass the course.

Students are required to bring the textbook and/or paper copies of the readings for the current class (and possibly reading assignments from the prior class). Failure to do so will result in receiving a half absence because these readings will be necessary for full participation in class. Please bring a notebook or lined loose-leaf paper to each class meeting as well.

Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class in order to observe a major religious holiday must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second class meeting. Students who must miss class unexpectedly should make an effort to contact the instructor as soon as possible, and preferably prior to that day's meeting.

Class Policies and Information

- All electronic devices – laptops, cell phones, iPods, headphones, etc. – must be silenced and stowed during class. Students using electronic devices in class may be asked to leave and marked absent for the day.
- Students may record class lectures but are prohibited from selling notes or recordings of those lectures. Students wishing to record lectures should speak with the instructor at the start of the semester.
- Students are expected to take notes during class, and obtain notes from a classmate in the case of absence.
- *Note: I reserve the right to change the readings/topics/due dates as necessary.*

E-mail and Canvas

It is your responsibility to check your USF e-mail and Canvas frequently. These are the ways I will communicate with you outside of class meetings. I will attempt to respond to e-mails within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. If you do not receive a response from me within a few days, assume that I did not receive your e-mail.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be extended to students during the course of the semester. These opportunities are optional, and the point value, timing, and requirements of the opportunity will be subject to the instructor's discretion. The availability of extra credit opportunities is not guaranteed.

Assignment Policy

All written assignments must be typed, unless otherwise noted. Hard copies of papers must be turned in to me at the *beginning* of the class on the due date. You will also be required to submit papers to SafeAssign prior to 9:30 am on the date they are due. Please plan accordingly. As a USF student, you have a credit of \$2.50 on your student ID for printing available to you each day at no cost in the USF library on the Tampa campus. I will *not* accept assignments via email. In addition, you must follow all formatting requirements specified for each assignment.

Please note: you should staple multiple page writing assignments before arriving to class. I will not have a stapler.

Assignments may be turned in prior to the due date to my office, which is FAO232.

Late Assignment Policy

No late assignments will be accepted, except by prior arrangement **at least 24 hours in advance** or documented emergency. Students who do not turn in assignments or who turn them in late without a prior arrangement or documented emergency will receive 0 points.

Course Requirements

- Attendance – See section on attendance above.
- Readings– Students will be expected to read all assigned texts and come to class prepared to discuss them. Take notes on the readings, including any questions you may have.
- Quizzes – Students will be given reading comprehension quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes **cannot** be made up for reasons of absence or tardiness. Quizzes are worth 15% of the student’s grade.
- In-Class and Take Home Assignments – Students will be expected to complete tasks individually and in small groups during class. Students will be given take home assignments to complete individually. These assignments will be worth 20% of the total grade.
- Exam - there will be three exams. The first two exams will be worth 10% and the final exam will be worth 15%, for a total of 35% of the final grade.
- Papers – students will be required to write two short papers. Each will be worth 10% of the student’s grade for a total of 20%.

Course Requirements Overview

Quizzes	15%	150 points
Attendance	10%	100 points
In-Class and Take Home Assignments	20%	200 points
Exams	35%	350 points
Papers (2)	20%	200 points
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TOTAL:	100%	1,000 points

Grading Policy

Students do not receive an “A” grade simply for meeting requirements. “A” and “B” grades are issued according to the quality of the student’s work and the comprehensiveness of the student’s understanding (as demonstrated in her/his work and class participation), and are not based solely on a student’s effort.

According to the USF Undergraduate Catalog, letter grades have the following meaning:

A	Superior performance
B	Excellent performance
C	Average performance
D	Below average performance
F	Failure
FF	Failure – Academic Dishonesty

The grade scale for this course will be as follows:

A+	97 and above
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Please see the instructor about the S/U option.

Students may receive an incomplete "I" grade for the course in the case of a documented emergency: documented illness, deaths in the immediate family and other documented crises, call to active military duty, court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty), etc. Please see the *Undergraduate Catalog* for more information.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

- Students are responsible for knowing and following USF policies regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. See <www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm> for details.
- The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service (SafeAssign), which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a large database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. Assignments submitted to Safe Assign will not identify the student using the name or ID number of the student in order to protect his/her privacy.
- Suspected cases of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be rigorously investigated. Academic dishonesty may result in an F for the test/assignment, and/or an F for the course. Particularly egregious forms of academic misconduct will be penalized as severely as possible; in these case, the instructor reserves the right to pursue an FF grade for the student for the course. Students receiving an FF grade have the right to appeal the grade to the chair of the Philosophy Department, Dr. Roger Ariew.

USF Emergency Policy

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Eluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor the Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.

Reading and Assignment Guide

Part 1. Principles and Theories:

Week 1

Class #1: 1/7 Introduction

Class #2: 1/9 Syllabus Quiz, read Vaughn "Moral Reasoning in Bioethics" pp. 3-30

Week 2

Class #3: 1/14 Vaughn "Bioethics and Moral Theories" pp. 33-50

Class #4: 1/16 John Stuart Mill "Utilitarianism" pp. 52-54, Immanuel Kant "The Moral Law" pp. 54-60 and Virginia Held "The Ethics of Care" 63-67

Part 2. Medical Professional and Patient

Week 3 Paternalism and Autonomy

Class #5: 1/21 Vaughn "Paternalism and Patient Autonomy" pp. 71-80, Schwartz "Autonomy, Futility, and the Limits of Medicine" pp. 104-108

Class #6: 1/23 Goldman "The Refutation of Medical Paternalism" pp. 93-98, Ackerman "Why Doctors Should Intervene" pp. 99-103

Week 4 Class #7: 1/28 Case Study #1: Ashley X "Attenuating Growth in Children with Profound Developmental Disability" by Daniel Gunther and Douglas Diekema and "At the Same Time, Out of Time: Ashley X" by Alison Kafer (on Canvas)

Class #8: 1/30 ****Paper #1 on Ashley X is due at 9:30am. Submit 1) an electronic copy to Turnitin on Canvas and 2) a paper copy at the beginning of class****

Week 5 Truth-Telling and Confidentiality

Class #9: 2/4 Vaughn "Truth-Telling and Confidentiality" pp. 131-138, Cullen and Klein "Respect for Patients, Physicians, and the Truth" pp. 148-155

Class #10: 2/6 Fausto-Sterling "Should There be Only Two Sexes?" pp. 124-137 (on Canvas)

Week 6

Class #11: 2/11 Exam 1

Class #12: 2/13 Informed Consent

Vaughn "Informed Consent" pp. 180-187, Case Study #2: Arras, "Antihypersensitives and the Risk of Temporary Impotence: A Case Study in Informed Consent" pp. 85-86 (on Canvas)

Week 7 Human Research

Class #13: 2/18 Vaughn "Human Research" pp. 221-236

Class #14: 2/20 Brandt "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study" pp. 266-278

Week 8

Class #15: 2/25 Hellman and Hellman "Of Mice but Not Men: Problems of the Randomized Clinical Trial" pp. 254-259, Freedman "A Response to a Purported Ethical Difficulty with Randomized Clinical Trials Involving Cancer Patients" pp. 259-263, "Medicare Requires Heart Patients to Enlist in Research" (on Canvas)

Part 3. Life and Death

Class #16: **Abortion**

2/27 Vaughn "Abortion" pp. 291-303

Week 9

Class #17: 3/4 Thomson "A Defense of Abortion" pp. 307-317

Class #18: 3/6 Marquis "Why Abortion is Immoral" pp. 317-329

3/11 No Class (Spring Break)

3/13 No Class (Spring Break)

Week 10 Genetic Choices

Class #19: 3/18 Vaughn "Genetic Choices" pp. 518-535

Class #20: 3/20 Review

Week 11

Class #21: 3/25 Exam 2

Class #22: 3/27 Purdy "Genetics and Reproductive Risk: Can Having Children Be Immoral?" pp. 542-548, Davis "Genetic Dilemmas and the Child's Right to an Open Future" pp. 553-562

Week 12

Class #23: 4/1 Saxton "Disability Rights and Selective Abortion" pp. 87-99 (on Canvas)

Class #24: 4/3 Amundson "Disability, Ideology, and Quality of Life: A Bias in Biomedical Ethics" pp. 101-124 (on Canvas)

Week 13

Class #25: **Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide**

4/8 Vaughn "Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide" pp. 594-606, Rachels "Active and Passive Euthanasia" pp. 649-652

Part 4. Justice and Health Care

Class #26: 4/10 Cohen "The Case for Presumed Consent to Transplant" pp. 254-263 (on Canvas), Veatch and Pitt "The Myth of Presumed Consent: Ethical Problems in New Organ Procurement Strategies" pp. 264-270 (on Canvas) ****Paper #2 is due at 9:30am.**

Submit 1) an electronic copy to Turnitin on Canvas and 2) a paper copy at the beginning of class ****

Week 14

Class #27: 4/15 Vaughn "Dividing Up Health Care Resources" pp. 681-692

Class #28: 4/17 Buchanan "The Right to a Decent Minimum of Health Care" pp. 703-708, "Rights to Health Care, Social Justice, and Fairness in Health Care Allocations: Frustrations in the Face of Finitude" pp. 708-716

Week 15

Class #29 4/22 Rescher "The Allocation of Exotic Medical Lifesaving Therapy" pp. 729-738

Class #30 4/24 Course wrap up and review

**The final exam for this course will be held on
Thursday, May 1st from 7:30-9:30 am.**