

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Summer 2018

PHIL 383: Ethics in Medicine

Instructor: Paul Andrew Tubig
Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00AM – 1:00PM
Class Location: Humanities Building, RM 217
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:00PM; or by appointment
Office Location: Humanities Building, RM 444
Email: ptubig@mail.sfsu.edu or ptubig@uw.edu

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to some of the contemporary ethical problems in medicine. In a general sense, medical ethics is the rational attempt to understand, analyze, and address complicated ethical questions that arise in the context of contemporary medicine. We will consider and analyze disputed issues in several major areas of medical practice, such as the appropriate role of physicians, physician-assisted suicide, abortion, assisted reproduction, disability, and healthcare justice. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students to major issues and thought in medical ethics, improve their abilities to think critically about these issues, develop their own ideas about them, and express these ideas clearly and persuasively in writing.

COURSE GOALS:

- To provide students with an understanding of some of the live, major ethical issues in medicine and philosophical arguments developed in response to them.
- To provide students with the conceptual tools to engage in the philosophical discourse of medical ethics. To effectively grapple with some of the contemporary ethical issues in medicine, students should have a high degree of fluency with the ethical theories and concepts that are relevant to them.
- To improve students' critical thinking and writing skills. Students should be able to effectively identify, evaluate and formulate arguments. Also, this course should help students be able to express their ideas in writing that is clear, organized and rationally persuasive. To improve students' independent thinking. This course does not aim to "convert" minds to adopt certain positions. Instead, it is to help students develop their own ideas that are responsive to reason and relevant moral considerations.

TEXTS:

- *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine: Contemporary Readings in Bioethics*, 8th Edition. Edited by Bonnie Steinbock, Alex John London and John D. Arras
- Other assigned readings will be available on iLearn.

EVALUATION/GRADING

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| Critical Reading Assignments (6 total) | 300 points (6 x 50 pts. each) | 30% |
| In-class participation (10 total) | 150 points (10 x 15 pts. each) | 15% |
| Film Reviews (3 total) | 150 points (3 x 50 pts. each) | 15% |
| Medical Case Assignment (Short paper) | 150 points | 15% |
| Medical Case Assignment (Long paper) | 250 points | 25% |
| | Total: 1000 points | 100% |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Critical Reading Assignments

This class involves a lot of reading and discussion. The individual readings are usually not long, but they are often dense and abstract. The purpose of critical reading assignments is to help students engage and comprehend the assigned readings by answering questions about the text. It therefore demands you to pay close attention to the texts so that you respond to these questions correctly or thoughtfully. Each reading assignment will consist of short answer questions. The length of each answer should range from a few sentences to a paragraph. You are expected to turn in 6 critical reading assignments. You can turn in more, but only the top 6 scores will count. The due date for each reading assignment is listed on the course schedule. Late work will not be accepted, except in cases of advanced instructor permission or extraordinary circumstances.

In-class Participation

Students are expected to attend every class session and stay for the entire duration of class. Each class session will include participation activities, which I will collect during or at the end of class. To complete the exercises, you will need to be in class. Late work will not be accepted.

Film Reviews

Three films will be shown to supplement the course readings and discussions. Students will be required to write a short response for each film. The dates for the film viewing and assignment submission deadlines are listed on the course schedule. Late work will not be accepted, except in cases of advanced instructor permission or extraordinary circumstances.

Medical Case Assignments

Students are expected to complete two assignments that involve addressing morally complex medical cases. The case will include questions that help you examine the case from multiple perspectives. You will answer each question using ideas from the readings and class lectures and discussions. These assignments will serve as your midterm and final. The due dates will be the following:

- Midterm assignment – Friday, July 27th at 11:59PM
- Final assignment – Friday, August 10th at 11:59PM

Late papers will be penalized 10% each day of the total points. For your second paper, late work will not be accepted after Tuesday, August 15th, except in cases of advanced instructor permission or extraordinary circumstances.

LEARNING ASSISTANCE

Students who require assistance with a reading and/or writing are more than welcome to attend my office hours or set up an appointment at the earliest convenience. I strongly recommend students to visit me regularly during office hours for any questions, clarifications, or assistance with the material in order to encourage the learning process. Further aid is also provided by the University's LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER located in HUM 348. For more information, visit <http://www.sfsu.edu/~lac/>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with documented disabilities who need reasonable accommodation are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Students Service Building and can be reached by phone (415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu).

PLAGARISM AND CHEATING

Maintain personal integrity by avoiding plagiarism (representing another's work as your own), cheating (altering the conditions of an examination to create unfair personal advantage), and other forms of academic dishonesty. Any academic dishonesty on any assignment or exam may result in an F on the assignment and a second infraction will result in an F for the course. Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses and will be treated as such. For more details, see <https://conduct.sfsu.edu/plagiarism>

COURSE SCHEDULE:

(This calendar is subject to revision. Major changes will be discussed with the students.)

Week 1: Moral Reasoning; the Physician-Patient Relationship

Tues. July 10: Moral Reasoning in the Medical Context

- Bioethics: An Introduction to the Discipline (iLearn)
- Critical Reading Assignment #1 due on Tuesday, 07/10, 11:59PM

Thu. July 12: Medical Paternalism versus Patient Autonomy

- Hippocratic Oath (59)
- Goldman: The Refutation of Medical Paternalism (60 – 68)
- Ackerman: Why Doctors Should Intervene (71 – 75)
- Case Study: Beneficence Today, or Autonomy (Maybe) Tomorrow? (68 – 69)
- Elger: Commentary (69 – 70)
- Chevrolet: Commentary (70 – 71)
- Emanuel & Emanuel: Four Models of the Physician-Patient Relationship (76-84)
- Critical Reading Assignment #2 due on Thursday, 07/12, 11:59PM

Week 2: Informed Consent, Truth-Telling, and the Moral Role of Doctors

Tues. Jul. 17:

Informed Consent & Truth-Telling

- Beauchamp & Childress: Respect for Autonomy (iLearn)
 - Beauchamp & Childress: The Meaning and Justification of Informed Consent (iLearn)
 - Akabayashi & Slingsby: Informed Consent Revisited: Japan and the U.S. (iLearn)
 - Thomasma: Telling the Truth to Patients: A Clinical Ethics Exploration (iLearn)
- *Critical Reading Assignment #3 due on Tuesday, 07/17, 11:59PM*

Thu. Jul. 19:

Conscientious Objection & the Moral Role of Physicians

- Emanuel: The Lessons of SARS (118 – 121)
 - Cantor & Baum: The Limits of Conscientious Objection—May Pharmacists Refuse to Fill Prescriptions for Emergency Contraception? (121 – 126)
 - Baum: “To Comfort Always: Physician Participation in Executions (134 – 142)
 - Little: Cosmetic Surgery, Suspect Norms, and the Ethics of Complicity (iLearn)
- *Critical Reading Assignment #4 due on Thursday, 07/19, 11:59PM*

WEEK 3: THE ETHICS OF REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES

Tues. Jul. 24:

Abortion

- Pope John Paul II: The Unspeakable Crime of Abortion (543 – 545)
 - Warren: On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion (545 – 555)
 - Marquis: Why Abortion is Immoral (556 – 563)
 - Thomson: A Defense of Abortion (574 – 573)
 - Hursthouse: Virtue Theory and Abortion (iLearn)
- *Critical Reading Assignment #5 due on Tuesday, 07/24, 11:59PM*

Thu. Jul. 26:

PGD, Procreative Beneficence, and Disability

- Savulescu: Procreative Beneficence: Why We Should Select the Best Children (iLearn)
 - Parker: The Best Possible Child
 - Davis: Genetic Dilemmas and the Child’s Right to an Open Future (iLearn)
 - Parens & Asch: The Disability Rights Critique of Prenatal Genetic Testing: Reflections and Recommendations (iLearn)
 - Film: Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement
- *Critical Reading Assignment #6 due on Thursday, 07/26, 11:59PM*
- *Medical Case Assignment due on Friday, 07/27, 11:59PM*
- *Film Review on Fixed due on Monday, 07/30, 11:59PM*

WEEK 4: THE ETHICS OF END-OF-LIFE CHOICES

- Tues. Jul. 31:** **Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS)**
- Quill: Death and Dignity: A Case of Individualized Decision-Making (437 – 440)
 - Brock: Voluntary Active Euthanasia (441 – 454)
 - Gay-Williams: The Wrongfulness of Euthanasia (iLearn)
 - Arras: Physician-Assisted Suicide: A Tragic View (455 – 461)
 - Rachels: Active and Passive Euthanasia (iLearn)
- Critical Reading Assignment #7 due on Tuesday, 07/31, 11:59PM

- Thu. Aug. 02:** **A Duty to Die?/PAS and Disability/PAS versus Continuous Sedation**
- Hardwig: Is There a Duty to Die? (483 – 493)
 - Bickenbach: Disability and Life-Ending Decisions
 - Silvers: Protecting the Innocents from Physician-Assisted Suicide
 - Stramando: Why Bioethics Needs a Disability Moral Psychology
 - Raus et al: Is Continuous Sedation at the End of Life an Ethically Preferable Alternative to Physician-Assisted Suicide? (iLearn)
 - Smith & Boal: Pulling the Sheet Back Down: A Response to Battin on the Practice of Terminal Sedation (iLearn)
 - Film: How to Die in Oregon
- Critical Reading Assignment #8 due on Thursday, 08/02, 11:59PM

WEEK 5: JUSTICE AND HEALTH CARE

- Tues. Aug. 07:** **Do We Have a Right to Healthcare?**
- Daniels: Equal Opportunity and Health Care (182 – 185)
 - Sade: Foundational Ethics of the Health Care System: The Moral and Practical Superiority of Free Market Reforms (193 – 209)
 - Menzel: The Realistic Moral Right to a Basic Minimum of Accessible Health Care (210 – 221)
 - Dwyer: Illegal Immigrants, Healthcare, and Social Responsibility (iLearn)
 - Film: Clínica de Migrantes
- Critical Reading Assignment #9 due on Tuesday, 08/07, 11:59PM
- Film Review on How to Die in Oregon due on Monday, 08/06, 11:59PM
- Film Review on 'Clínica de Migrantes' due on Friday, 08/10, 11:59PM

- Thu. Aug. 09:** **NO CLASS – Work on Final Assignment**
- Final Assignment due on Friday, 08/10, 11:59PM