

PHIL 2408: Bioethics

Winter 2017, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:05-11:25

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Wayne

Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:00, or by appointment

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Teaching Assistant: Ben Trainor, bentrainor@cmail.carleton.ca

NOTE: This syllabus is as complete as possible, but some details will be filled in as the class progresses, and some minor changes may be implemented as necessary.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course in normative and applied ethics, with significant overlap onto social/political philosophy, which focuses on a set of problems raised in and by bioethical discourse. In this course we examine primarily current bioethics literature to analyze and address pressing ethical issues in reproduction, disability rights, advancing medical technology, and old age care. We consider these issues through the lens of broader philosophical questions about identity, social justice, and competing notions of the good life and of progress. Students taking this course will become familiar with some foundational concepts in bioethics and how they feature in contemporary bioethical debates, and in turn how these debates shape medical research and clinical practice.

CLASS TEXTS

Our class readings will be individual articles and chapters made available through cuLearn and Carleton's online library reserve system, Ares, which you can access through the course cuLearn page. You will be expected to print out and bring assigned reading(s) to class.

Some minor additional readings not found on the schedule (e.g. case studies in the news) may be posted on cuLearn from time to time.

COURSE POLICIES

Students are welcome to discuss any questions or concerns regarding the readings, assignments, or any other course-related matters with me (and when applicable, the teaching assistant) during office hours, by appointment, or by e-mail. E-mail inquiries should generally be reserved for brief/logistical questions; otherwise, meeting in person is typically best. You can expect to receive a response to e-mail inquiries from me within twenty four hours during the work week, barring noted exceptions. I will post lecture slides on cuLearn after each week of classes. These can be helpful guides for review and study, but they will not function well as substitutes for attendance.

With the aim to encourage a non-distracting and actively engaged class:

I expect students to limit laptop and any other electronics use to note-taking, to refrain from talking outside of discussion, to be actively attentive, and to arrive on time and stay for the full class.

While this course is lecture-focused, I will regularly include discussion in class. I certainly do not expect everyone to actively/consistently contribute to full class discussions, but I do expect that you will listen to your fellow students when they are speaking, and contribute in small group discussions wherever possible.

Particularly since we will be discussing controversial topics: I expect all students to participate in discussion and debate in a respectful and productive manner. Considered provocative views, reasoned disagreement, reflective skepticism, and thoughtful critical questions are all welcome; care in making these contributions respectfully will help maintain both their value in debate and a positive classroom environment.

If you have any concerns about your ability to fulfill any of the course requirements, but are unsure of how to proceed, please speak with me as soon as possible and take care to inform yourself on relevant departmental and university policies and accommodations services. There is a complete list of these on the last pages of this syllabus, with which all students should become familiar.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. If you are unclear on the nature of academic integrity or Carleton's academic integrity policy, please consult with me and/or the information and links to further resources on the last page of the syllabus.

EVALUATION

1) Attendance (10%)

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students can miss up to four classes with no penalty. Each class missed including and after the fifth will result in a 2% reduction of your total grade for the course. If you miss four classes or fewer, you will have a perfect attendance grade.

Barring exceptional cases (e.g. prior arrangement with PMC, documented chronic illness or continuing family emergency) that involve the need for ongoing absence, missed classes cannot be covered by notes.

2) Quizzes (25%)

Students are expected to take five in-class quizzes. Your lowest quiz grade will be eliminated, and your top quiz grade will count for 10% toward your total course grade. The remaining three will each count for 5% toward your total course grade.

The format will be primarily short answer, with some fill in the blank, true or false, and multiple choice questions. The quizzes will test your familiarity with that week's assigned reading, though some critical analysis will be required by some questions. The main goals of the quiz portion of the evaluation are to test your general understanding of the readings and to encourage you to keep up with the readings -- not to challenge you to remember minor or obscure details in the texts.

Each quiz will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete, and will take place at the beginning of class. Individual quizzes cannot be made up, but there will be a general make-up/bonus quiz at the end of term, which all students are free but not required to take.

3) Midterm paper (30%)

Students will choose a topic in contemporary bioethics from a set list, and write a paper of 1500-1800 words on that topic. The topics will include a set of questions that requires you to address a particular practical bioethical issue or case with appeal to some of the theoretical concepts, arguments, and problems we examine in the lectures and readings. The topic list will only cover material up to and including Tuesday February 28th. You will be expected to draw explicitly on class material, but no outside research will be required. The paper deadline is Thursday March 2nd. The topic list and more detailed instructions will be discussed in class and made available on Thursday February 9th

4) Final exam (35%)

The final exam (during exam period, date and time TBA) covers all course material, but will focus on what we cover after February 28th. The exam will include short and long answer questions. More information will be made available as the exam period approaches, and the last class will be primarily devoted to exam review.

COURSE SCHEDULE (note: see Readings document for full references)

Thursday January 5 Introducing Bioethics
No assigned readings

Harm and benefit in reproduction

Tuesday January 10 Savulescu, "Procreative Beneficence: Why we should Select the Best Children"

Thursday January 12 Sparrow, "Procreative beneficence, obligation, and eugenics"

Tuesday January 17 Savulescu, "In defence of procreative beneficence"
Bennett, "The fallacy of the principle of procreative beneficence"

Thursday January 19 Douglas and Devolder, "Procreative altruism: beyond individualism in reproductive selection"
**Quiz 1*

Tuesday January 24 TBA

Antinatalism and responses

Thursday January 26 Shiffrin, "Wrongful Life, Procreative Responsibility, and the Significance of Harm"

Tuesday January 31 Benatar, "Why It Is Better Never to Come into Existence"

Thursday February 2 Overall, "*Not* 'Better Never to Have Been'"
**Quiz 2*

Tuesday February 7 Young, "Overconsumption and Procreation: Are they Morally Equivalent?"

Häyry, M., 2004. A rational cure for prereproductive stress syndrome. *Journal of medical ethics*, 30(4), pp.377-378.

Holm, S., 2004. Why it is not strongly irrational to have children. *Journal of medical ethics*, 30(4), p.381.

Thursday February 9 Purdy, "Genetics and reproductive risks: can having children ever be immoral?"
**Paper topics and instructions*

Prenatal testing, disability, and society

Tuesday February 14 Parens and Asch, "Disability rights critique of prenatal genetic testing: reflections and recommendations"

Thursday February 16 James Nelson, "Prenatal Diagnosis, Personal Identity, and Disability"
**Quiz 3*

Tuesday February 21 and Thursday February 23 <i>*Reading Break</i>	No classes or assigned readings
Tuesday February 28	Roberts, "Race, gender, and genetic technologies: a new reproductive dystopia?" Jong and Wert, "Prenatal screening: an ethical agenda for the near future"
Thursday March 2 <i>*Midterm paper due</i>	Susan Wendell, "Who is Disabled? Defining Disability"
Tuesday March 7	Kittay, "The ethics of care, dependence, and disability"
Thursday March 9 <i>*Quiz 4</i>	Wasserman, "Stigma without Impairment: Demedicalizing Disability Discrimination"
Tuesday March 14	Sandel, "The Case Against Perfection: What's wrong with Designer Children, Bionic Athletes, and Genetic Engineering," Buchanan, "Human nature and enhancement"
Thursday March 16	Douglas, "Moral enhancement via direct emotion modulation: A reply to John Harris" Sparrow, "Egalitarianism and moral bioenhancement"

Identity and autonomy in dementia and end-of life

Tuesday March 21 <i>*Quiz 5</i>	Post, "Respectare: Moral Respect for the Lives of the Deeply Forgetful" Dresser, "Dworkin on Dementia: Elegant Theory, Questionable Policy"
Thursday March 23	Edwards, "Respect for other selves"
Tuesday March 28	Behuniak, "The living dead? The construction of people with Alzheimer's disease as zombies"
Thursday March 30	Foot, "Euthanasia"
Tuesday April 4	Schüklenk, Van Delden, Downie, Mclean, Upshur, and Weinstock, "End-of-Life Decision-Making in Canada: The Report by the Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel on End-of-Life Decision-Making"
Thursday April 6 th <i>*Bonus/make-up</i>	Exam review, no assigned readings

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations (both formally scheduled and take-homes), you must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of the exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 3 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for

the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735