

PHIL 3232: MEDICAL ETHICS (3 credits)

SECTIONS 476 & 477: INTERNET

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Schalow
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Course Webpages: Accessed via Moodle

Required Text

[1] *Bioethics* [B], by Lewis Vaughn, 2nd edition; Oxford University Press, 2013; ISBN 978-0-19-979623-6.

Course Description

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: A exploration of basic moral issues in medical practice and research, such as: genetic engineering, abortion, euthanasia, paternalism, truth-telling, confidentiality, informed consent, distribution of resources, and experimentation on human and nonhuman subjects.

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course will examine ethical issues arising in the professional and social-policy aspects of medical ethics. Coverage includes such topics as “fact,” “value,” and “knowledge” regarding health; moral concepts in Medical Ethics; and special moral problems concerning abortion, euthanasia, reproductive technology, and genetic engineering.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to recognize philosophical questions
- to analyze ethical arguments
- to recognize, entertain, and respond to criticism of his/her own ethical viewpoints
- work with philosophical concepts and methods, and to construct and evaluate arguments
- to participate in classroom discussion, developing and displaying an ability and readiness to defend one’s own point of view while listening openly but carefully to others
- to demonstrate a willingness to entertain criticism, formulate and reply to reasonable objections, and represent opposing views both critically and sympathetically
- to read both primary and secondary texts and analyze the arguments contained in them correct
- to articulate and write lucidly on a specific ethical position or topic related to the field of medical ethics

Grading

Requirement			Final grade	
Term Paper	(20%)	20 points	A	100-89.5
First exam	(30%)	30 points	B	89.4-79.5
Second exam	(30%)	30 points	C	79.4-69.5
One-minute args.	(15%)	15 points	D	69.4-59.5
Participation	(5%)	5 points	F	59.4—0

TERM PAPER: The primary reason for attending college is to begin the process of becoming a scholar by reflecting on complicated questions related to human experience and its articulation through great thinkers of the philosophical and ethical tradition. To this end, each student is required to write a "term paper," arguing a specific position in regard to a topic on Medical Ethics. Specifications: Primary sources, e.g., scholarly articles on various topics, must be cited; when other are used, they too must be cited according to an MLA format; the term paper must be submitted through Moodle, and be between 8-12 papers (double-spaced); for further instructions, including topics, see the profile of "Term Paper" posted on Moodle. The paper is due on July 17th. The paper is worth 20% of the student's final grade. **Late Papers:** All papers received after that date will be deducted 5 points for each day late.

ONE-MINUTE ARGUMENTS: At the end of most classes I shall post a question on the discussion board (Moodle). Your responses to those questions (and to the responses of other students) will allow you become engaged with the material/issues covered in class. Each student must post a response to these questions. Each response must be posted within 48 hours. Consider your responses to be "one-minute arguments." What that means is you will need to make a claim, give some evidence in support of that claim, and it should take me about 1 minute to read it. After posting your response, you may then post a response to someone else's response, continuing the discussion. Your one-minute arguments are worth **15%** of your final grade.

EXAMS: There will be **2** take home essay exams, each covering about half of the course material. You may use your text and notes but ***you may NOT collaborate***. As in the paper, ***you must properly cite sources of all work that is not your own***. Consult me for advice in case of uncertainty. The exams are worth **60%** of your final grade. The first exam is due on June 25; the second exam (final) is due on July 28th. All exams received after the due date will face a penalty of 5 points for each date late; in the case of exam #2, the penalty holds up to the submission of final grades. If the second exam has not been submitted by that date, the student's grade will be calculated minus that exam.

PARTICIPATION: The overall involvement and engagement in the course, including exchanges on discussion board, constitutes the participation grade (5%).

Course Policies

- ACADEMIC HONESTY** Academic dishonesty undermines the academic enterprise and includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarizing, tampering with academic records or exams, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. If you're foolish enough to do something like this, you'll be expelled from the course with a failing grade and will be reported to the university.
- ATTENDANCE** Attendance is expected and is measured in term of "class participation" through the one-minute arguments.
- CLASS CONDUCT:** Each student is requires to act in a civil and respectful way.
- DISABILITY POLICY** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.
- INCOMPLETES:** Incompletes are discouraged. Arrangements must be made in advance.
- LATE-STARTS:** There are no special dispensations for late-start students.
- MAKE-UP EXAMS:** Make-up exams are allowed. See above, " Exams," for penalty.
- PROCTORING:** To ensure academic integrity, all students enrolled in distance learning courses at the University of New Orleans may be required to participate in additional student identification procedures. At the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course, these measures may include on-campus proctored examinations, off-site or online proctored examinations, or other reasonable measures to ensure student identity. Authentication measures for this course may include Proctor U and any fees associated are the responsibility of the student. University of New Orleans partners with Proctor U, a live, online proctoring service that allows students to complete exams from any location using a computer, webcam, and reliable internet connection.
- WITHDRAWALS:** You may withdraw from this course for any reason. Withdrawal is strictly up to you.
- WARNING!** *Doing philosophy requires a willingness to think critically.*

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Game Plan

Sections 476 and 477
(Subject to revision)

WEEK	TOPIC	READ	LECTURE
(1) 06/2—06/7	Introduction to Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Philosophy? • Intro. to Medical Ethics 	B, pp. 3-23	1-3
(2) 06/10—06/15	Ethical Theories and Concepts History of Ethics	B, pp. 33-68	4-6
(3) 06/18—06/22	Paternalism and Autonomy Abortion	B, pp. 71-130 B, pp. 291-391	7-8
(4) 06/25--06/29	Euthanasia Test #1, (June 25, Wed.8:55, am)	B, pp. 594-677	9
(5) 07/3--07/7	Reproductive Technology	B, pp. 392-483; 519-593	10
(6) 07/10--/07/14	Genetic Advances and Cloning	B, pp. 519-593; 484-504	11-12
(7) 07/17--07/21	AIDS and Medical Research Paper Due (July 17, Tues., 8:55 am)	B, pp. 134-139; 231-287	13-14
(8) 07/24--/07/26	Scarce Medical Resources Limits of Health-Care	B, pp. 729-746 B, pp. 681-728	15-16
	Test #2 (July 28, Mon. 8:55 am)		