

## PHIL 165: Bioethics

Fall 2018 – M/W/F 1:25-2:15  
Greenlaw 220

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Office Hours: M/W 2:30-3:30

### Course Description:

Bioethics is a species of practical ethics that investigates the various ethical issues that emerge in the arenas of clinical medicine, biomedical research, and public health. This course explores a small sampling of traditional and contemporary bioethical questions central to the field's focus. We'll begin with some ethical questions that arise in the context of a doctor-patient relationship—questions involving autonomy, paternalism, and consent. Next, we'll cover some specific issues in bioethics: abortion and disability. Finally, we'll consider some political and economic issues of bioethical relevance, with a particular focus on issues surrounding health care (in)equality, privatization, and biomedical markets at the margins.

### Assessment:

Attendance & participation	10%
Mid-term exam	20% (October 22)
Final exam	25% (December 10, 12:00pm)
First essay (2,000 words)	20% (October 15, 11:59pm)
Second essay (2,500 words)	25% (November 26, 11:59pm)

### Attendance & Participation:

Attendance is mandatory. Participation and preparedness are also mandatory. Occasional pop quizzes will be given throughout the term that will aid in assessing your overall preparedness for class; these will count toward your attendance & participation score. Formal explanations must be provided for an absence to be considered excused. Arriving ten minutes late or leaving ten minutes early counts as an unexcused absence. Students with outstanding participation who have fewer than three unexcused absences will receive a bonus in their attendance & participation score. So too will students who attend at least three PPE-related events (<http://ppe.unc.edu/events/list>) over the course of the term (plus there's usually pizza).

### Submission:

Essays should be submitted to your Drop Box on Sakai, in .pdf format, by 11:59pm on the dates that they're due. You will lose 10% of your essay grade for each day that your essay is late. An essay will be considered late if (1) it's not turned in by the due date, (2) it's not properly uploaded to your Drop Box, or (3) the file is corrupted and so unable to be opened.

### Electronics:

No phones or laptops without prior permission.

### Email:

Please allow 24 hours for a response. If you don't hear back within 48 (business) hours, send a short follow up. Be sure to check this syllabus and the course site for answers to your questions before emailing to ask them—and please be professional in your correspondence.

### **Required Texts:**

All assigned reading can be found either online or on the course website.

### **Reading:**

All the readings for this course are worth reading. Please read them carefully. I advise reading each piece more than once. The goal should be to understand the author well enough to be able to state her/his argument(s) in your own words. Read critically. Question the author's claims, and question your questioning of those claims. See my website, under 'Teaching', for some helpful guides to reading philosophy: [www.chrismhoward.com/teaching.html](http://www.chrismhoward.com/teaching.html).

### **Writing:**

A principal aim of this course is to help you develop your skills in producing informative and persuasive writing. The assignments are designed to facilitate this end. You will write drafts of each of your essays and exchange them for peer editing, prior to turning in a final draft. The details of this exercise will be explained in class. Before writing a draft of your first essay, I ask that you please view the guidelines for writing a philosophy paper available on my website: [www.chrismhoward.com/teaching.html](http://www.chrismhoward.com/teaching.html).

### **Honor Code:**

All students must be familiar with and abide by the Honor Code, which covers such issues as plagiarism, falsification, unauthorized assistance or collaboration, cheating, and other acts of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code will not be taken lightly. See <http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/honor-code/> for more information. Also: re-using paper for past courses qualifies as academic dishonesty, and so is not permitted.

### **Accessibility Resources & Service (ARS):**

UNC-Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health struggles, chronic medical conditions, temporary disability, or pregnancy complications, all of which can impair student success. See the ARS website for contact and registration information: <https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/contact-us>

### **Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS):**

CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short- or long-term needs. Go to their website: [www.caps.unc.edu](http://www.caps.unc.edu) or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Service building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.

### **Topics and Readings:**

#### **Unit One: The Doctor-Patient Relationship**

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| 22 August | Introduction & Overview  |
| 24 August | <i>Crash Course in Moral Theory</i><br>Lewis Vaughn, "Moral Reasoning in Bioethics" (pp. 3-18)                                   |
| 27 August | <i>The Doctor-Patient Relationship</i><br>Ezekiel Emanuel and Linda Emanuel, "Four Models of the Physician-Patient Relationship" |

- 29 August     *Autonomy & Paternalism, Part 1*  
                   Gerald Dworkin, “Paternalism”
- 31 August     *Group Discussion*
- 3 September   *No class – Labor Day*
- 5 September   *Autonomy & Paternalism, Part 2*  
                   Alan Goldman, “The Refutation of Medical Paternalism”
- 7 September   *Group Discussion*
- 10 September  *Autonomy & Paternalism, Part 3*  
                   Terence Ackerman, “Why Doctors Should Intervene”
- 12 September  *Autonomy & Paternalism, Part 4*  
                   Atul Gawande, “Whose Body Is It, Anyway?”
- 14 September  *Group Discussion*
- 17 September  *Informed Consent, Part 1*  
                   Schloendorff v Society of New York Hospital  
                   Jay Katz, “Informed Consent – Must It Remain a Fairy Tale?”
- 19 September  *Informed Consent, Part 2*  
                   Onora O’Neill, *Autonomy and Trust in Bioethics*, ch. 2
- 21 September  *Group Discussion*

**Unit Two: Special Topics in Bioethics**

- 24 September  *Abortion, Part 1*  
                   Patrick Lee and Robert George, “The Wrong of Abortion”  
                   Mary Ann Warren, “On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion”
- 26 September  *Abortion, Part 2*  
                   Don Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”
- 28 September  *Group Discussion*

- 1 October      *Abortion, Part 3*  
 Judith Jarvis Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”  
 \*Rough draft of essay 1 due at 11:59pm\*
- 3 October      *Abortion, Part 4*  
 The Economist, “How to Make Abortion Rarer”  
 Sarah Kramer, “The GOP’s New Abortion Plans Could Lead to Some Chilling Consequences”  
 Amelia Thomson-DeVeaux, “It’s Really Hard to Measure the Effects of Abortion Restrictions in Texas”
- 5 October      *Group Discussion*
- 8 October      *Disability, Part 1*  
 Elizabeth Barnes, *The Minority Body* (selections)
- 10 October     *Disability, Part 2*  
 Alex Gregory, “Disability as Inability” (selections)
- 12 October     *No class – University Day*
- 15 October     *Disability, Part 3*  
 Alex Gregory, “Disability and Well Being”  
 \*Essay 1 due at 11:59pm\*
- 17 October     *Disability, Part 4*  
 Jeff McMahan, “The Morality of Screening for Disability”
- 19 October     *No class – Fall Break*
- 22 October     \*Midterm Exam\*

**Unit Three: Political and Economic Issues in Bioethics**

- 24 October     *Healthcare Privatization, Part 1*  
 Norman Daniels, “Is There a Right to Health Care and, If So, What Does It Encompass?”
- 26 October     *Healthcare Privatization, Part 2*  
 Allen Buchanan, “The Right to a Decent Minimum of Healthcare”

- 29 October *Healthcare Privatization, Part 3*  
Tristram Engelhardt, “Rights to Health Care, Social Justice, and Fairness in Health Care Allocations: Frustrations in the Face of Finitude”
- 31 October *Healthcare Privatization, Part 4*  
Atul Gawande, “Is Healthcare a Right?”
- 2 November *Group Discussion*
- 5 November *Patient-Driven Drug Development, Part 1*  
Kenneth Moch, “Ethical Crossroads: Expanded Access, Patient Advocacy, and the #SaveJosh Social Media Campaign”  
Alison Bateman-House, Arthur Caplan, and Kelly McBride Folkers, “‘Right to Try’ is Merely ‘Thoughts and Prayers’ for the Terminally Ill”
- 7 November *Patient-Driven Drug Development, Part 2*  
Jessica Flanigan, “Patient-Driven Drug Development”
- 9 November *Group Discussion*
- 12 November *Markets in Sex and Reproductive Labor, Part 1*  
Varune Bhave, “Motherhood by Proxy: The Ethics of Surrogacy”  
Elizabeth Anderson, “Is Women’s Labor a Commodity?”  
**\*Rough draft of essay 2 due at 11:59pm\***
- 14 November *Markets in Sex and Reproductive Labor, Part 2*  
Emily Sohn, “States Wrestle with Legalizing Payments for Gestational Surrogacy”  
The Economist, “As Demand for Surrogacy Soars, Many Countries Are Trying to Ban It”
- 16 November *Group Discussion*
- 19 November *Markets and Human Organs, Part 1*  
Cecile Fabre, “Justice and the Compulsory Taking of Live Body Parts”
- 21 November *No class – Thanksgiving Break*
- 23 November *No class – Thanksgiving Break*

- 26 November *Markets and Human Organs, Part 2*  
Debra Satz, “The Moral Limits of Markets: The Case of Human Kidneys”  
**\*Essay 2 due at 11:59pm\***
- 28 November *Markets and Human Organs, Part 3*  
Jason Brennan and Peter Jaworski, “Markets Without Symbolic Limits”
- 30 November *Group Discussion*
- 3 December *Markets and Human Organs, Part 4*  
Barry Maguire and Brookes Brown, “Markets, Interpersonal Practices, and Signal Distortion”
- 5 December *Wrap up and Review*
- 10 December **\*Final Exam @ 12:00pm\***