

PHIL 312-02

Bioethics

Fall 2018

Tues/Thurs, 2:45- 4:00 PM, MI-3111 (Meilkejohn)

Instructor: Tristan J. Rogers, Ph.D.

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Office: SF-462 (Student and Faculty Support)

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 6:00 – 7:00 PM (and by appointment)

Course website: <http://www.bb.csueastbay.edu>

Course description: This course is about ethical issues arising in the practice of medicine. We will examine these issues from the dual perspectives of medical practitioner (some of us, and perhaps you) and healthcare consumer (all of us). Throughout we will emphasize the skill of practical decision making by examining case studies. The issues we will discuss are divided into three broad themes: 1) Decision Making, 2) Life and Death, and 3) Medical Research and Technology. We will begin with a primer on ethics and the language of healthcare ethics. Specific attention is given to connecting issues in medical ethics to the living of a good life through a focus on prudence, the virtue of ethical decision making. Students are encouraged to engage with the text and develop their own viewpoints.

Required Texts (available in the Campus Bookstore or online):

Raymond J. Devettere, *Practical Decision Making in Health Care Ethics*, 4th ed. (Georgetown University Press, 2016), ISBN:978-1-62616-276-1

General Education Requirement Learning Outcomes (A4):

Upon completion of your A4 requirement, you will have developed the following skills:

- Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply principles, methodologies, values systems, and thought processes employed in the arts and humanities
- Analyze cultural production as an expression of, or reflection upon, what it means to be human
- Demonstrate how the perspectives of the arts or humanities are used by informed, engaged, and reflective citizens to benefit local and global communities

Assessment:

10% – Course Engagement

You cannot learn if you do not participate and take ownership of your own learning. Because of this, I expect students to miss class rarely and only for good reason. Similarly, I expect you to engage in class discussion, either voluntarily or when called on. I will do what I can to make this not stressful, and I expect you will all earn 10%.

40% – Case Study Reflections

We will look at seven case studies. For each case study, you will write a short (one page double-spaced) reflection piece. The reflection should include two components: a) an analysis of the case in terms of the course material, b) your own thoughts about the case. Since we will also read the reflections of the textbook's author, you may use these as a jumping off point (whether you agree or not). The first reflection will be on happiness and virtue, not a case study. We'll talk more about these in class.

30% – Two Short Papers

There will be two short argumentative papers (three pages double-spaced) on the topics of abortion and euthanasia, where you defend a position on these topics. You will have an opportunity to revise both.

20% – Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative, but only include the most critical aspects of the course, which we will review as we progress. Please note the date and plan your travels accordingly.

Grading Schema:

A = 95-100%, A- = 90-94%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 84-86%, B- = 80-83%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 74-76%, C- = 70-73%, D+ = 67-69%, D = 60-66 %, F = 0-59%

I will, as a matter of policy, round up grades to the next letter grade if you are within 1% (e.g. 79.1 to 80%, but *not* 78.9 to 80%)

Late work policy: As a rule, work will not be accepted late except in cases of documented emergency or illness. You may make a written petition for an exception if you feel you have a compelling reason for turning work in late. But these requests must be made in advance and certainly not near the end of the semester in conjunction with a grade appeal.

Course conduct: You are expected to be respectful toward your fellow students and myself. This course covers some controversial and emotionally charged issues. If you are not comfortable rationally discussing them in a thoughtful and respectful way, you should not take the course. Additionally, please refrain from using your phones (e.g. texting, email, YouTube videos, listening to music, etc.), and otherwise acting in an inappropriate or distracting way (e.g. chronic lateness, talking, sleeping, playing computer games, etc.). Responsible use of laptops/tablets is permitted provided it does not degenerate into any of the above. Failure to abide by the above will result in forfeiting the course engagement portion of the grade and you may be asked to leave class.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a violation of University policy and seriously undermines your integrity as a student. If you are suspected of plagiarizing or cheating, and proven to have done so, you will receive an F in the course and be required to go through standard University policy, which will be unpleasant for both of us. It is your responsibility to understand the University's plagiarism policy. When in doubt, ask me. See: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/academic/academic-policies/academic-dishonesty.html>

Reasonable Accommodation: Should any student need accommodation because of a disability, please let me know to discuss options. For more information, please visit: <http://www20.csueastbay.edu/af/departments/af/as/index.html>

Subject to change proviso: Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade, late work and course conduct policy, may be subject to change with advanced notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Course Schedule

See below for a comprehensive overview of readings, assignments, and due dates for the semester. Please note that (excepting the first class) readings and assignments are to be completed *before* the class for which they are listed. All page numbers refer to our required text.

PRELUDE: Ethics and Medicine

Week One – *What is Ethics?*

August 21 (Tues): Syllabus Overview and Introduction to the Course, pp. 1-9

August 23 (Thurs): cont., pp. 9-18

Week Two – *Prudence and Living a Good Life*

August 28 (Tues): Happiness, pp. 25-40

August 30 (Thurs): Virtue, pp. 40-57

Week Three – *The Language of Health Care Ethics*

September 4 (Tues): Distinctions that Can Mislead, pp. 66-83

First Reflection Due

September 6 (Thurs): Helpful Distinctions, pp. 83-89

PART ONE – Decision Making

Week Four – *Making Health Care Decisions*

September 11 (Tues): Informed Consent, pp. 93-111

September 13 (Thurs): The Case of Hazel Welch, pp. 119-121

Second Reflection Due

Week Five – *Decision Making for Others*

September 18 (Tues): Proxy Decision Making, pp. 127-140

September 20 (Thurs): NO CLASS

PART TWO – Life and Death

Week Six – *When Does Life Begin and End?*

September 25 (Tues): Theories of Life and Death, pp. 155-165

September 27 (Thurs): cont., pp. 165-175

Week Seven – *Life Sustaining Treatments*

October 2 (Tues): Controversies over Determining Death, pp. 175-188

October 4 (Thurs): Ventilators and the Case of Karen Quinlan, pp. 194-202

Third Reflection Due

Week Eight – *Cont.*

October 9 (Tues): Dialysis and the Case of Earle Spring, pp. 216-222

Fourth Reflection Due

October 11 (Thurs): Surgery and the Case of Rosaria Candura, pp. 222-226

Fifth Reflection Due

Week Nine – *Abortion*

October 16 (Tues): Introduction to Abortion, pp. 340-352

October 18 (Thurs): The Moral and Religious Issues of Abortion, pp. 352-356

Week Ten – *Cont.*

October 23 (Tues): Maternal and Fetal Conflicts, The Case of Angie pp. 363-368

October 25 (Thurs): The Case of Samantha Burton, pp. 368-370

Sixth Reflection Due

Week Eleven – *Euthanasia*

October 30 (Tues): Introduction to Euthanasia, pp. 413-424

First Short Paper Due

November 1 (Thurs): Some Distinctions, pp. 424-430

Week Twelve – *Cont.*

November 6 (Tues): Arguments for and against Euthanasia pp. 430-441

November 8 (Thurs): The Case of Diane, pp. 448-455

Seventh Reflection Due

PART THREE – Medical Research and Technology

Week Thirteen – *Research*

November 13 (Tues): The History of Medical Research, pp. 463-472

Second Short Paper Due

November 15 (Thurs): Reactions to the History of Medical Research, pp. 472-479

Week Fourteen – *Thanksgiving*

November 20 (Tues): THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS (read pp. 562-567 for next week)

November 22 (Thurs): THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS

Week Fifteen – *Technology*

November 27 (Tues): Ethics and the Genomic Revolution, pp. 568-580

November 29 (Thurs): Genetic Therapy Research, pp. 591-596

Week Sixteen – *Final Week*

December 4 (Tues): The Case of Jesse Gelsinger, pp. 596-609

Eighth Reflection Due

December 6 (Thurs): Review Day

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 13th, 3 pm – 5 pm