

PHI 237 - Medical Ethics - Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Duane Long
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Office Hours:

Course # 24359
3 credits

TAs:

Course Description: We will examine major topics in the ethics of medicine/medical treatment at the beginning and end of life.

Required Texts: There is no textbook to buy for this class. All required readings will be available electronically

Course format: This course is offered entirely online. Approximately 100-125 minutes of lectures will be posted weekly for viewing. It is assumed that you'll watch at least parts of some of the lectures more than once, so this should even out to roughly 150 minutes' lecture material each week. This time expectation is in addition to whatever time is necessary for doing the readings and the paper, but for the weeks of the midterm and the final, the timed exams will count toward the week's work load. Exams will be a combination of short answer and essay questions.

Course Evaluation and Grading System:

- 2 short papers (approx. 3 pages), 17% of semester grade each
- 2 exams (midterm and final), 33% of semester grade each
- The final exam will NOT be cumulative.

- Grade distribution:

Grade	Quality Points	Percentage
A	4.0	93.0% - 100.00%
A-	3.67	90.0% - 92.9%
B+	3.33	87.0% - 89.9%
B	3.00	83.0% - 86.9%
B-	2.67	80.0% - 82.9%
C+	2.33	77.0% - 79.9%
C	2.00	73.0% - 76.9%
C-	1.67	70.0% - 72.9%
D+	1.33	67.0% - 69.9%
D	1.00	63.0% - 66.9%
F	0	62.9% or below

- The default assumption of the class is that all grade fractions will be rounded DOWN to the nearest whole percent (i.e. an 89.999% is a B+, not an A-). However, the professor, at his sole discretion, reserves the right to round a grade up instead of down if he feels the result better

- reflects a student's efforts, participation, and mastery of the material. The TA will be consulted, however, so time spent meeting with them will also be taken into consideration by the professor.
- All 4 assignments must be done to pass the course, regardless of points earned.
 - Papers which are late without permission will be deducted 3% per day late. If you believe you will not be able to finish a paper on time, communicate that fact to the professor BEFORE it is due and an extension may be given. If requested after the paper is due, extensions will only be given for documented emergencies such as severe illness or family tragedy.

Incompletes

- An instructor may award a grade of "I" (Incomplete) if a student was unable to complete all of the objectives for a passing grade in a course. An incomplete grade cannot be carried beyond the established date in the following semester. The completion date is determined by the instructor. For more information on incompletes, see <http://www.buffalo.edu/recreation/services/academics/academic-incomplete-policy.html>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- 1) You are expected to be familiar with the rules and standards regarding academic integrity as laid out by the Academic Integrity Office. You will be held responsible for any violations of the rules of academic integrity even if you were unaware that you were violating those rules. For full information on what constitutes academic misconduct, see https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/academic_integrity_2019-20.html
- 2) **Important:** Aiding another in committing academic dishonesty, including failing to report an instance of academic dishonesty of which you are aware, is itself a violation of the rules of academic integrity. If you know someone is cheating, it is your responsibility to inform the professor.
- 3) All suspected instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the university. Students determined to have committed academic misconduct will receive a failing grade in the class and the professor may also submit a recommendation to the Academic Integrity Office that the student's transcript permanently include a notice that the failing grade was the result of academic misconduct. For repeat offenders, the professor will recommend expulsion.

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

If you have any disability which requires reasonable accommodations to enable you to participate in this course, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources, 25 Capen Hall, 645-2608, and also the instructor of this course. The office will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations. <http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/ods/>

UB Portfolio

Your final UB Curriculum requirement (UBC 399: UB Curriculum Capstone) requires you to include "artifacts" from all of your UB Curriculum courses in your UB Portfolio. If you intend to use this course to satisfy UB Curriculum requirements, then I advise you to select an "artifact" that is representative of your learning in this course, and upload it to your UBPortfolio. An appropriate artifact would be either a homework assignment or an exam. For information about the UB Curriculum Capstone, see <https://www.buffalo.edu/ubcurriculum/capstone.html>. For UB Portfolio support, see https://buffalo.digication.com/ub_portfolio/ubportfolio-walk-in-lab-hours .

Course Reading Schedule

Week 1 Jan 31-Feb 4

Lecture 0 - Welcome and Syllabus Review

Lecture 1 - Important Distinction: Legality vs. Morality. Getting rid of 4 theories we're not taking seriously this semester: Skepticism, Anti-Realism, Relativism, Utilitarianism

Lecture 2 - O'Neill - "A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics"

Lecture 3 - Wikipedia: Medical Ethics. Read Sections 2-3.1 (Up to but not including "Euthanasia")

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_ethics

Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy: Theory and Bioethics. Read Section 4

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/theory-bioethics/>

Week 2 Feb 7-11

Lecture 4 - Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy: Virtue Ethics. Read Intro - Section 2.1

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-virtue/>

Lecture 5 - Tronto - "An Ethic of Care" (read pp. 125-147)

Lecture 6 - Faden and Beauchamp, "The Concept of Autonomy", *A Theory of Informed Consent*, pp. 235-255

Week 3 Feb 14-18

Lecture 7 - Faden and Beauchamp, "The Concept of Autonomy", *A Theory of Informed Consent*, pp. 256-269

Lecture 8 - Boyle, "The Process of Informed Consent"

Paper 1 Assigned 2/16/22 - Covers Material from Lectures 2 through 9 (Due 2/23/22)

Lecture 9 - *Canterbury v. Spence* (Paragraphs 11-42)

Week 4 Feb 21-25

Lecture 10 - Freedman, "Offering Truth to Uninformed Cancer Patients"

Paper 1 Due 2/23/22. Expected grade posting date: 3/3/22 (this is not a guarantee)

Lecture 11 - Burton, "A Chronicle: Dax's Case as it Happened"

Cowart and Burt, "Confronting Death: Who Chooses, Who Decides?"

Lecture 12: Dax Cowart video, discussion. **Trigger warning:** This video includes footage of some of Dax's real-life treatment, which involves a severely burned individual experiencing incredible amounts of pain, which may be disturbing. There is significant educational value to the video,

however, and there will be significant online discussion about the video, so I strongly encourage people to watch if they can, and if they cannot, to communicate with classmates later.

Week 5 Feb 28-Mar 4

Lecture 13 - *Bouvia v. California Superior Court*

Johnson, "Quinlan and Cruzan: Beyond the Symbols"

Wikipedia: Karen Ann Quinlan

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_Ann_Quinlan

Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health, including dissent

Lecture 14 - Wikipedia, "Sun Hudson Case"

Miles and Ackerman, "Should Doctors Be Able to Refuse Demands to Futile Treatment?"

Texas Advanced Directives Act Section 166.046

Winslade, "Permanently Unconscious Patients: A Radical Proposal"

Lecture 15 - Tanner, "Who Should MDs Let Die in a Pandemic?"

OHPIP - Critical Care During A Pandemic

Donnell and Marshall - Medical Ethics in Disaster Situations

Lecture 16 - Quill, "Death and Dignity: A Case of Individualized Decision Making"

Week 6 Mar 7-11

Lecture 17 - Brock, "Voluntary Active Euthanasia"

Lecture 18 - Dworkin, "Assisted Suicide: The Philosopher's Brief"

Washington v. Glucksberg

Vacco v. Quill

Week 7 Mar 14-18

Lecture 19 - Wolf, "Gender, Feminism, and Death"

Lecture 20 - Parks, "Why Gender Matters to the Euthanasia Debate"

Oregon Death With Dignity Act

Oregon DWDA 2018 Data Summary

Lecture 21 - Pressly, "The troubled 29-year-old helped to die by Dutch doctors"

(<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-45117163>)

Week 8 Mar 21-25

Lecture 22 - Verhagen and Sauer, "The Groningen Protocol - Euthanasia in Severely Ill Newborns"

Kodish, "Paediatric Ethics: A Repudiation of the Groningen Protocol"

Lecture 23 - Lindemann and Verkerk, "Ending the Life of a Newborn"

Lecture 24 - Hardwig, "Is There A Duty to Die?"

Week 9 Mar 28-Apr 1

Midterm Exam Part 1: Short Answer. To be taken Monday, March 28 between noon and 6PM

Midterm Exam Part 2: Essay Questions. To be taken Tuesday, March 29 between noon and 6PM

The midterm covers Lectures 2-24

Lecture 25 - *McFall v. Shimp*
Roe v. Wade

Week 10 Apr 4-8

Lecture 26 - Gazzaniga, "Conferring Moral Status on an Embryo"

"Lecture 27" - No video, but read "Interview with a Woman Who Had an Abortion at 32 Weeks"

Lecture 28 - Marquis, "Why Abortion Is Immoral"

Week 11 Apr 11-15

Lecture 29 - Shoemaker, "Embryos, Souls, and the Fourth Dimension" pp. 51-top of 59

Lecture 30 - Shoemaker, "Embryos, Souls, and the Fourth Dimension" pp. 59-68

Paper 2 Assigned 4/13/22 - Covers Material from Lectures 26, 28, and 29 (Due 4/19/22)

Lecture 31 - Harmon, "Creation Ethics: The Moral Status of Early Fetuses and the Ethics of Abortion"

Week 12 Apr 18-22

Lecture 32 - Kingma, "Lady Parts"

Paper 2 Due 4/19/21. Expected grade posting date: 4/26/21 (this is not a guarantee)

Lecture 33 - Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"

Week 13 Apr 25-29

Lecture 34 - Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"

Lecture 35 - Hursthouse, "Virtue Theory and Abortion"

Lecture 36 - Manninen, "Pleading Men and Virtuous Women: Considering the Role of the Father in the Abortion Debate"

Week 14 May 2-6

Lecture 37 - Brake, "Fatherhood and Child Support: Do Men Have a Right to Choose?"

Lecture 38 - Little, "The Moral Permissibility of Abortion"

Lecture 39 - Little, "Abortion, Intimacy, and the Duty to Gestate"

Final Exam Part 1: Short Answer. To be taken Monday, May 9 between noon and 6PM

Final Exam Part 2: Essay Questions. To be taken Tuesday, May 10 between noon and 6PM

The final covers lectures 25-39

Grades will be posted Monday, May 16th