

PHL283 H5F – Bioethics

T3-5, R3-4, Location TBD

Instructor: Matthew Wurst

Email: matthew.wurst@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours: TBD

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Course Description

This is an ethics course that engages with ethical questions that arise in the context of medicine and healthcare. To start, we'll introduce some of the key moral principles of biomedical ethics, and outline a couple of major moral theories. This will help prepare us to consider issues such as: the responsibility of doctors to patients; ethical issues surrounding human research and clinical trials; the morality of abortion; the morality of euthanasia; and the allocation of healthcare resources. In addressing these questions, we'll cultivate skills such as: the ability to construct and critically examine philosophical arguments; the ability to write clearly and persuasively; the ability to forward and philosophically defend our own positions; and the ability to respectfully engage in dialogue and conversation on controversial topics with people with whom we disagree.

Required Text

Lewis Vaughn, *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, Cases*, 3rd edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Schedule

(All page numbers refer to Lewis Vaughn, *Bioethics*, 3rd edition, unless indicated. I've put the corresponding page numbers from the 2nd edition in parenthesis.)

Unit 1: Doctor-Patient Relationship

Week 1

Introduction; Moral Principles in Bioethics

Chapter 1, pp. 3-30 and Chapter 2, pp. 34-52. (pp. 3-30 and pp. 33-52).

Week 2

Paternalism

Chapter 3, pp. 81-93; pp. 104-115. (pp. 71-83 and pp. 93-103).

Week 3

Informed Consent

Chapter 5, pp. 196-208; pp. 208-213; pp. 223-229. (pp. 180-190; pp. 190-195; pp. 205-11).

Week 4

Human Research

Chapter 6, pp 239-259; pp. 272-277; pp. 278-281; pp. 282-284. (pp. 221-241; pp. 254-259; pp. 259-263; pp. 263-266).

Unit 2: Life and Death

Week 5

Abortion

Chapter 7, pp. 309-336. (pp. 291-317).

Week 6

Abortion, cont.

Chapter 7, pp. 336-348; pp. 353-363. (pp. 317-329; pp. 333-343).

Week 7

Genetic Choices

Chapter 9, pp. 539-560; pp. 571-574; pp. 575-585. (pp. 518-538; pp. 549-552; pp. 553-563).

Week 8

Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide

Chapter 10, pp. 625-641; pp. 646-657. (pp. 594-609; pp. 614-625).

Week 9

Euthanasia, cont.

Chapter 10, pp. 658-662; pp. 678-681. (pp. 625-630; pp 649-652).

Unit 3: Justice

Week 10

Conscience Rights

Udo Schuklenk, "Conscientious Objection in Medicine," (on Blackboard).

Cristopher Crowley, "A Defense of Conscientious Objection in Medicine," (on Blackboard).

CMPA Statement, "Conscientious Objection to Medical Assistance in Dying," (on Blackboard).

Week 11

Dividing Up Health Care Resources

Chapter 11, pp. 719-743 (pp. 681-702).

Week 12

Dividing Up Health Care Resources, cont.
Wrap up

Course Requirements

1. 5x short written assignments, 15%
2. First essay, 20% (800 words, **due date**)
3. Second essay, 30% (1200 words, **due date**)
4. Final exam, 35%

Expectations for the essays and final exam will be discussed in class and will be posted on Blackboard before these assignments are due.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity (from <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai>)

Academic integrity is applying values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility to all academic pursuits, even in the face of challenge. AI applies to every member of the University, and acting with academic integrity helps preserve a community where academic skills are cultivated and where intellectual property is respected.

Please familiarize yourself with AI. You can find details in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). Violations of AI include (but are not limited to):

- Using unauthorized aids during exams or on papers.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Failing to properly cite or reference material or sources.
- Submitting the same work to more than one course.
- Sharing your work with another student.
- Plagiarism

For more on plagiarism, please see the guide provided by the [University Writing Centre](#). And see [How Not to Plagiarize](#). Academic misconduct is taken very seriously at the University of Toronto. Cases of academic misconduct will be investigated following the procedure laid out in the Code. *The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript.* If you are unsure what the expectations are for an assignment, or unsure about what constitutes a violation of AI, then please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Course Website

Periodically, announcements will be posted and course material will be uploaded to the course website, found on Blackboard. You will be expected to check Blackboard regularly.

Lateness policy

Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day (this includes holidays and weekends), unless you have a letter from a doctor documenting illness, or a letter from your registrar. Papers will not be accepted one week after the paper's due date.

Paper Submissions

You will submit your paper through the course website on Blackboard. All papers will be due by 11:59pm on the due date.

Email

If you have questions about the structure of the course or expectations for the course, then please send me an email, but first check to see whether your question is answered in the syllabus. When you email me, please put 'PHL281' in the subject title. I will respond to your emails in a timely fashion. During the week, expect me to respond within 24 hours; and during the weekend, expect me to respond within 48 hours. If you haven't heard from me by then, then please resend your email. But if you have a philosophical question, then please see me in office hours.

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom, or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:

accessibility.services@utoronto.ca