

Biomedical Ethics

PHIL 167

UCR Spring 2014

Syllabus

Meeting: T-R 3:40-5:00 LFSC 1500

Instructor: Andrew Franklin-Hall

Contact: andrew.hall@ucr.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 12:00-1:00 and
by appointment Humanities and Social Sciences
Building
3206

Teaching Assistants

Courtney Morris cmorr007@ucr.edu *Kevin Gin* kevin.gin@email.ucr.edu

Zachary Bachman zachary.bachman@email.ucr.edu

Course Requirements

Lecture Attendance	5%
Discussion Section Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Paper	25%

Grading Scheme

100-97%	A+	89.99...-87%	B+	79.99...-77%	C+	69.99...%-60%	D
96.99...-93%	A	86.99...-83%	B	76.99...-73%	C	<59.99...%	F
92.99...-90%	A-	82.99...-80%	B-	72.99...-70%	C-		

The lower boundary for each letter grade is the cut-off. (The cut-off has to come somewhere.) So, I don't generally round grades up.

Readings

All readings are available on iLearn under the “Syllabus” Tab. Readings are assigned for the week. You should do all the assigned readings before your discussion section. Bring readings (either in paper or electronic form) to class and to section. Sometimes “supplementary” readings will be posted as well; these are recommended, but not required.

Lecture Presentation

The power point presentation for the week will generally be made available on Monday evenings.

Clickers

We will be using clickers in this course. Clickers are required, and you are expected to bring your clicker to every class. You should have your clicker no later than Thursday of the second week of class.

Attendance

Attendance to lecture is mandatory and is worth 5% of your grade. You are permitted two unexcused absences. Mild sickness or a doctor’s appointment are NOT excused absences (plan for this!). Excused absences are university-related events (e.g., sports competitions) or things you contact your dean about (hospitalization, chronic sickness, family emergency, birth of child, zombie apocalypse). Attendance, moreover, means “mental attendance.” Being physically present but asleep or otherwise inattentive does not count.

After two absences, your attendance grade will be lowered by 1 point for each absence.

Attendance will be recorded by answering the clicker questions. If you forget your clicker or if it malfunctions, then at the end of class, hand your TA a sheet of paper that includes the answers to the clicker questions, your name, section, and the date. *This will be allowed once.* After that, a forgotten or malfunctioning clicker will count as an absence.

Classroom Etiquette

Please do not engage in private conversation during the lectures.

Please turn your phones off during class and refrain from texting, sexting, or other fiddling with your phone.

Discussion Participation

Attending and participating in your discussion section is worth 10% of your grade. You have one unexcused absence for section. After that, each absence automatically decreases this portion of your grade by 1 point. Roughly, participation will be graded as follows:

A	Regular, high-quality participation
B	Frequent participation
C	Occasional participation
D	Infrequent participation
F	No participation; poor attention

Exams

There will be an in-class midterm exam (May 8) and an in-class final exam (June 7). The exams will feature a combination of short-answer and essay questions. You will need to supply your own examination bluebooks.

Papers

You are required to write one short paper addressing an assigned topic based on the assigned readings. Topics will be distributed at least two weeks in advance of the due date. In length, each paper should be between 1200 and 1500 words (about 4-5 double-spaced pages).

If you wish to dispute the grade assigned to your paper, you must write a one-page essay on why you think you deserve a different grade. Your TA will read your essay and take another look at your paper. Your TA may decide that your original grade is correct, or that the paper should be adjusted up *or down*. If you still have concerns after the second round of grading, you may bring the matter to me and I will review the grade.

Plagiarism Policy: Unless otherwise instructed, you are advised not to do outside research for the papers. That said, any text taken verbatim from other sources must be quoted and cited. Paraphrases and the borrowing of ideas from other sources should also be cited. Plagiarism will be dealt with severely and may result in both failing the course and having the incident permanently recorded on your academic transcript. You may talk with other students about your papers, but you must do the actual writing yourself. You are encouraged to have friends or writing tutors read over your work to proofread and give you feedback.

Provisional Course Schedule

Week 1 (April 1 & 3):

Introduction to Biomedical Ethics

- a) Beauchamp, "Ethical Theory and Bioethics"
- b) The Hippocratic Oath

Unit I: Autonomy and Aims of Medicine

Week 2 (April 8 & 10)

Patient Autonomy and Medical Ethics

- a) Katz, "Informed Consent: Must it Remain a Fairy Tale?"
- b) Ackerman, "Why Doctors Should Intervene"
- c) Miles, "Informed Demand for 'Non-Beneficial' Medical Treatment"
- d) Thomasma, "Telling the Truth to Patients: A Clinical Ethics Exploration"

Week 3: (April 15 & 17)

Surrogate Decision-Making and Advance Directives

- a) Dresser and Robertson, "Quality of Life and Non-Treatment Decisions for Incompetent Patients: A Critique of the Orthodox Approach"
- b) Dworkin, "Autonomy and the Demented Self"

Week 4 (April 22 & 24)

Ethics of Medical Research

- a) Hellman & Hellman, "Of Mice but not Men: Problems of the Randomized Clinical Trial"
- b) Freedman, "A Response to a Purported Ethical Difficulty with Randomized Clinical Trials Involving Cancer Treatments"
- c) Cohen, "Medical Experimentation on Prisoners"
- d) Brody, "Ethical Issues in Clinical Trials in Developing Countries"

Unit II: Creation and Destruction of Life

Week 5 (April 29 & May 1): *Abortion*

- a) Feinberg, "Abortion"
- b) Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral"

Week 6 (May 6): *Genetic Screening*

- Steinbock, "Disability, Prenatal Testing, and Selective Abortion"

Midterm Exam (May 8)

Week 7 (May 13 & 15): *Genetic Engineering*

- a) Sandel, "The Case Against Perfection"
- b) Glover, "Questions About Some Uses of Genetic Engineering"
- c) Savulescu, "Genetic Interventions and the Ethics of Enhancement of Human Beings"

Paper Due (Monday, May 19)

Week 8 (May 20 & 22): *Euthanasia and End-of-Life Decisions*

- a) The Catholic Church's *Declaration on Euthanasia*
- b) Quill, "Death and Dignity: A Case of Individualized Decision-Making"
- c) Feinberg, "Whose Life is it Anyway?"
- d) Callahan, "When Self-Determination Runs Amok"
- e) Brock, "Voluntary Active Euthanasia"

Unit III - Justice and Health Care

Week 9 (May 27 & 29): *Medical Resource Allocation*

- a) Rescher, "The Allocation of Exotic Medical Lifesaving Therapy"
- b) Harris, "The Value of Life"

Week 10 (June 3 & 5):

Health Care and Social Justice

- Norman Daniels, "Health Care Needs and Distributive Justice"

Final Exam (June 7):

11:30-2:30