

# Phil 233: Biomedical Ethics

Spring 2013  
Thursday 6:30-9:00  
Eads 204

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Office: Wilson 116  
Office Hours: Thursday 3:00-4:00 or by appointment

## Course Description

In light of contemporary moral disagreements and traditional ethical theories, we will examine some of the moral issues arising out of medical practice and experimentation. We will cover issues regarding the doctor-patient relationship, informed consent, abortion, and euthanasia. We will also discuss current controversies surrounding genetic screening, animal experimentation, and health care rationing.

## Learning Objectives

Students who take this class can expect

- to learn how to think in a rigorous philosophical way about important issues and positions in biomedical ethics.
- to gain a deeper understanding of philosophical methodology.
- to experience a learning environment that encourages independent thought and discussion.
- to hone their critical reading and writing skills.

## Expectations

This course has no prerequisites. Students are expected to attend all lectures, read the required texts, and do the best work they can on all assignments. Students are also expected to take an active role in their learning by raising questions in class and participating in discussion. The instructor will attempt to provide interesting and informative material for students to read, give helpful lectures, provide assignments and activities that challenge and stimulate interest, be available to answer any questions, and provide fair and timely evaluations of student achievement.

## Required Texts

- Munson, Ronald. *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Bioethics*, Ninth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Additional readings will be distributed in class.

## Evaluation

10%	Participation
30%	Midterm Exam
30%	Term Paper
30%	Final Exam

*Participation* – Much class time will be spent discussing the assigned readings (either as a class or in small groups). For that reason, it is essential that each student come to class prepared with questions, comments, or objections. To ensure that this is the case, there will occasionally be pop quizzes at the start of class. The quizzes are designed to be very easy if you have completed the reading, and very difficult if you have not. The lowest quiz score for each student will be dropped. Participation grades will be determined by the quality and frequency of contributions to class discussion, regularity of attendance, and quiz scores. Please do not be afraid to share your thoughts with the class—undeveloped ideas often lead to fruitful discussions.

*Term Paper* – Students are expected to write one paper with a length of 1,200 – 1,500 words. Students can either choose a topic suggested by the instructor, or come up with their own paper idea. Anyone who wants to do the latter must have the paper proposal approved by the instructor. I will provide further details about the paper assignment and expectations later in the semester. Some class time will be devoted to discussion of strategies for writing papers. Papers are due on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm. Papers not received by then will be penalized 5% off their base grade immediately, and another 5% for every 24 hour period thereafter until they are received.

### *Academic Integrity*

All students are expected to adhere to high standards of academic integrity. That means that all work presented as original must, in fact, be original, and the ideas and contributions of others must always be appropriately acknowledged. Quotations must, of course, be acknowledged, but so must summaries, paraphrases, and the ideas of others. *Course Listings* and *Bearings*, and the [University Policies website](http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html) ([www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html](http://www.wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity.html)) all contain full statements of the University's policy on academic integrity. The policy is summarized at [www.ja.wustl.edu/academicintegrity/resources-policysummary.php](http://www.ja.wustl.edu/academicintegrity/resources-policysummary.php). If you have any doubts or questions about documentation requirements, please ask me. Don't guess.

**Course Schedule** (Subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and via e-mail.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Due</u>
1/17	Introduction	None
1/24	Autonomy & Paternalism	3-6, 38-42, 53-69
1/31	Autonomy & Paternalism	22-26, 45-47, 73-78
2/7	Informed Consent	42-45, 87-92, 96-103 140-143
2/14	Animal Experimentation	156-158, 196-209
2/21	Genetic Control	259-275, 281-300
2/28	Reproductive Control	366, 370-371, 373-376, 401-424
3/7	Midterm	None
3/14	No Class (Spring Break)	None
3/21	Abortion	454-468
3/28	Abortion	472-490
4/4	Euthanasia	578-582, 585-612
4/11	Transplants and Allocation	638-643, 653-657, 659-666
4/18	Justice and Healthcare	689-694, 702-723
4/25	Justice and Healthcare	TBA
5/2	Final Exam	None