

Philosophy 214 Biomedical Ethics

TR 9:30 – 10:50
Online

Instructor:	Jonathan Livengood
Office:	https://illinois.zoom.us/j/3958023831
Office Hours:	M 10:00 - 10:50 AM
Email:	jonathan.livengood@gmail.com
Website:	jonathanlivengood.net/teaching.html
Phone:	618.791.6123
Required Text:	Kuhse and Singer, eds. (2009) <i>A Companion to Bioethics</i> (available online through the library)
Optional Text:	Demarco and Jones (2017) <i>Bioethics: Legal and Clinical Case Studies</i>

Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics.
--Jane Addams

If it is not right, do not do it; if it is not true, do not say it.
--Marcus Aurelius

Course Overview and Objectives

Biomedical Ethics (PHIL 214) teaches students to think critically about ethical problems that arise in the fields of medicine and bio-engineering. The course is organized roughly around the three areas of medical procedures, medical research, and medical resources. We will consider ethical challenges surrounding specific medical procedures, such as abortion, euthanasia, and cosmetic surgeries; we will consider ethical challenges for medical research, such as privacy, informed consent, and the moral status of research animals; and we will consider ethical challenges connected to public health and scarce medical resources, such as organ transplantation, triage, vaccination, and the provision of healthcare. Special emphasis will be placed on the relationship between ethical theory and public policies governing medical practice.

Course Requirements and Grading

Grades: Grades are based on a 400 point scale. Those points are available as follows:

80	8 Homeworks * 10 Points per Homework
20	CITI Research Ethics Training
100	10 Quizzes * 10 Points per Quiz
50	5 Argument Summaries * 10 Points per Summary
70	Midterm Argument (20) & Midterm Essay (50)
70	Final Argument (20) & Final Essay (50)
10	Participation
<hr/>	
400	Total Points

Final grades will be determined as follows:

A	376-400	94-100%
A-	360-375	90-94
B+	348-359	87-90
B	336-347	84-87
B-	320-335	80-84
C+	308-319	77-80
C	296-307	74-77
C-	280-295	70-74
D+	268-279	67-70
D	256-267	64-67
D-	240-255	60-64
F	0-239	0-60

Homework: There will be regular homework assignments made on Mondays and collected on Mondays. The homework will include both conceptual, foundational, and ethical questions, and also technical questions in the areas of logic, probability, statistics, decision theory, and causal modeling.

Quizzes: There will be a quiz almost every week. The quizzes will cover material from readings and lectures. The format of the quizzes will be multiple choice, short-answer, and matching.

Argument Summaries: Most weeks up to the midterm, I will identify a portion of an assigned reading and ask you to distill from it a quasi-formal argument, like this:

- [1] Physicians are obligated to provide the best available treatment for their patients.
 - [2] If the expected utility of an experimental treatment is less than the expected utility of a standard treatment, then that experimental treatment is not the best available.
-
- [3] If the expected utility of an experimental treatment is less than the expected utility of a standard treatment, then physicians are obligated to provide some other treatment.

Midterm Essay: Instead of a midterm exam, students will write a 1,000 word essay (approximately 4 or 5 typed, double-spaced pages in 12-pt Times New Roman font with standard margins) on a selected topic in biomedical ethics. The essay should give one argument for a clearly stated thesis and then give reasons for accepting the premisses of the argument. Students will be required to submit a quasi-formal version of the argument they intend to give in their paper **seven (7) days** before the paper is due.

Final Essay: Instead of a final exam, students will write a 1,000 word essay (approximately 4 or 5 typed, double-spaced pages in 12-pt Times New Roman font with standard margins) on a selected topic in biomedical ethics. The essay should give one argument for a clearly stated thesis and then give reasons for accepting the premisses of the argument. Students will be required to submit a quasi-formal version of the argument they intend to give in their paper **seven (7) days** before the paper is due.

Participation: Your participation grade will be based on the quantity and quality of your contributions to discussions.

Academic Integrity

Don't cheat! Students will be expected to comply with the [University of Illinois's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in [Article 1 of the Student Code](#). This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators. Violators, if caught, will be punished to the fullest extent possible.

Disabilities

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you should notify me, the instructor in your recitation period, and the [Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services \(DRES\)](#) no later than the 2nd week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify DRES, call 217.333.4603 (Voice or TTY) or send them an email at disability@uiuc.edu. Their Office is located at 1207 S. Oak St. in Champaign.

Class Schedule

This is the schedule of readings and due dates. Each set of readings should be read *by the date it appears in the list*.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Tue., Aug. 25	None
Thur., Aug. 27	Harris “Worst Possible Misery” Mackie “Argument from Relativity”
Tue., Sept. 1	DeMarco & Jones Ch 01 Moral Theory in Bioethics Rachels 2009 Ch 02 Ethical Theory and Bioethics
Thur., Sept. 3	Selections from Larsen <i>Human Embryology</i> Finer et al. “Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions” Chae et al. “Reasons why women have ...” Roe v. Wade SCOTUS Opinion Warren “Abortion” Tooley “Personhood”
Tue., Sept. 8	Thomson “Defense of Abortion”
Thur., Sept. 10	Marquis “Why Abortion is Immoral”
Tue., Sept. 15	Rachels “Active and Passive Euthanasia” Stoffell Ch 27 “Voluntary Euthanasia”
Thur., Sept. 17	Velleman “A Right of Self-Termination?”
Tue., Sept. 22	Brock Ch 23 “Decisions at the End of Life” Capron Ch 26 “Advance Directives”
Thur., Sept. 24	Pope “Texas Advance Directives Act”
Tue., Sept. 29	O’Neill “Some Limits of Informed Consent” Sawicki “Modernizing Informed Consent”
Thur., Oct. 1	Millum & Bromwich “Understanding, ... and Consent”
Tue., Oct. 6	CITI Research Ethics Training Due! Beecher (1966) “Ethics and Clinical Research” Ward et al. (1958) “Infectious Hepatitis” Krugman (1986) “The Willowbrook ...”

Thur., Oct. 8	The Belmont Report DeMarco & Jones Ch 10 “Clinical Trials” Luna & Macklin “Research Involving Human Beings”
Fri., Oct. 9	Midterm Argument Due!
Tue., Oct. 13	Rhodes “Rethinking Research Ethics”
Thur., Oct. 15	Sacks et al. “Are Uncontrolled Studies Justified?” Hollenberg et al. “Reply to Sacks et al.” Schafer “The Ethics of the RCT”
Fri., Oct. 16	Midterm Essay Due!
Tue., Oct. 20	McNeill “Paying People to Participate” Wilkinson and Moore “Inducement in Research”
Thur., Oct. 22	Emanuel et al. “Clinical Research in Developing ...”
Tue., Oct. 27	Cohen “The Case for the Use of Animals in Research”
Thur., Oct. 29	Rollin “Moral Status of Animals” Robbins et al. “More than a Feeling”
Tue., Nov. 3	Childress et al. “Public Health Ethics” Kass “An Ethics Framework for Public Health”
Thur., Nov. 5	Peipert et al. “Preventing Unintended Pregnancies” McNicholas et al. “Choice Project Round Up” Biggs et al. “Did increasing use ...” Ricketts et al. “Game Change in Colorado” Kavanaugh & Jerman “Contraceptive Method Use ...”
Tue., Nov. 10	Garcia & Sharif “Black Lives Matter”
Thur., Nov. 12	Reverby “More than Fact & Fiction” Reverby “Normal Exposure”
Tue., Nov. 17	Flanigan “Compulsory Vaccination”
Thur., Nov. 19	Block “Refusing Refusers” Diekema “Physician Dismissal”
Tue., Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Break – No Class!!
Thur., Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Break – No Class!!
Tue., Dec. 1	Daniels “Is There a Right to Healthcare?”

Thur., Dec. 3	Liu “Estimating Effect of Single-Payer in NYS” Blahous “Costs of National Single-Payer” Shekelle et al. “Comparison of Quality of Care ...” Bhatt & Beck-Sagué “Medicaid Expansion ...”
Tue., Dec. 8	Sachs “Liberty and Universal Healthcare”
Fri., Dec. 11	Final Argument Due!
Fri., Dec. 18	Final Essay Due!