

PHILOSOPHY 327 BIOMEDICAL ETHICS Fall 2009

Professor B. Cox-White, Ph.D., R.N.

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Office Hours: TR 1-2 PM; W: 1:00-5:00 PM; or by appointment

Course Description: An examination of moral issues in health care. Topics discussed include genetic diagnosis, reproductive authority, professional responsibility, and allocation of health care resources. This is an approved GE Upper Division Theme (UDT) course.

Course Goals: Mastery of a framework for reasoning about ethical issues that will enable students to:

- * understand the nature of a moral dilemma, a moral action, and a good life;
- * appreciate the interrelationship of these concepts; and
- * recognize & use philosophical tools to resolve moral dilemmas & identify moral actions.

Caveat: PHIL 327 fulfills the Area C requirement for the GE UDT, **Contemporary Health Issues**. You must have completed at least 45 credits to gain credit for the theme.

Course Requirements

1. Daily **5-point** quizzes on assigned readings (100 points): **given at start of class (if you are late, too bad)**. You may miss 2 without penalty. **Quizzes = 20% course grade**
2. Two group discussions/written analyses of dilemmas (100 points) = **20% course grade**
3. A midterm exam (125 points) = **25% course grade**
4. A comprehensive final exam (175 points) = **35% course grade**

Text: On-line reader @ <http://sites.google.com/site/phil327csuc/>

Rules of the Game:

1. **Come to class prepared to discuss your ANALYSES of the readings.** This is impossible if you have not read and studied the material. **(NB: This is not a memorization course!)**
2. I will randomly call on students to discuss readings. If you are truly unable (as opposed to merely unwilling) to respond, you may pass. You should pass rarely.
3. Do not get behind on the readings! Playing catch-up in this class is a difficult and (almost always) unsuccessful strategy.
4. If you have problems understanding course material, come see me as soon as you realize you are in trouble. Wait until dead week and you are dead meat.
5. I try to accommodate personal obligations/crises without being a complete sucker. **If you are unable to be present for an in-class discussion or exam graded assignment on the assigned date, you must notify me before class on the day the assignment is due.** If you do not, you will receive a zero for the assignment. If properly notified, I will consider an appropriate alternative.
6. If you miss class, contact me or a classmate to get notes. Do not begin by asking, Did we do anything important? (Call me crazy, but I think we do something important every day.)
7. To prevent unpleasant surprises, I post grades after every graded assignment. I curve grades only at semester s end, and only if no one gets a natural A . Typically someone gets an A , so you should hone your skills in philosophical analysis rather than prayer.

8. Anyone caught plagiarizing written work or cheating on a quiz or exam will be shot. Survivors will fail the class and be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action. I will recommend expulsion from university, as anyone who cheats in an ethics course clearly lacks the intellect needed to appreciate complex concepts and was admitted to university by mistake.
9. If you expect competing requirements (e.g., university extracurricular activities, job, childcare, etc.) will negatively effect your success in this class, ***see me immediately.***
10. Mere seat time will not guarantee you a Gentleman s [sic] C. Your grade is based on mastery of the material. If you want a guaranteed C , go to Princeton on Daddy s (or Mommy s) money.
11. ***I will do all I can to help you succeed in this class (really, I will).*** I keep office hours in the cheerful hope that you will come to discuss philosophy (really, I do). Such conversations are both fun and likely to improve your grasp of course material (really, they will). Besides, you pay to have my expertise available to you; so you may as well get your money s worth.

Reading Philosophy for Fun and Profit: Readings are theoretical & demand careful study. **You should allot at least 2 hours (3-4 are better) for each assignment.** You should read assignments before and after class discussions. (Yes, I am suggesting you read each assignment twice; no, I am not insane; yes, I do realize you have a life. Oddly, I have a life too.) As you read, attempt to determine the following:

- * What is the author s **position**?
- * What **reasons moral and factual** does the author give to support the position?
- * What **evidence** supports the reasons the author gives?
- * If you approach readings critically, you will almost always:
 - * get much more out of them;
 - * become adept at identifying good arguments;
 - * become adept at recognizing when to take a claim seriously; and
 - * get a better grade.

Assignments: All are available at <http://sites.google.com/site/phil327csuc/>.

- 8/25 The Nature of Biomedical Ethics
- 8/26 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY NO office hours, phone or email communication**
- 8/27 **MORAL DILEMMAS AND THEIR RESOLUTION**
 READ: (1) Syllabus; (2) AJ: Basic Process; and (3) Sam & Jeff
- 9/1 Moral Dilemmas and the Appeal to Consequences
 READ: (1) Appeal to Consequences; (2) The Obligation to Rescue; and (3) Dr. Purty
TYPE: AJ steps 1-3 for the Dr. Purty dilemma, using only an appeal to consequences
- 9/2 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY NO office hours, phone or email communication**
- 9/3 Autonomy and Respect for Persons in Moral Analysis
 READ:(1) Appeal to Autonomy; (2) RFP; (3) Informed Consent Components; and (4) Dr. Pepper.
 Version ONE
TYPE: AJ steps 1-4 for Dr. Pepper dilemma, using only appeals to autonomy and RFP.
- 9/8 **CAMPUS-WIDE FURLOUGH DAY NO CLASS, office hours, phone or email**
- 9/10 Rights in Moral Analyses
 READ: (1) Appeal to Rights; and (2) HIV: Duty to Warn?; (3) In class discussion instructions
TYPE: AJ steps 1-4 for the duty to warn dilemma, using only an appeal to rights.
- 9/15 Virtues in Moral Analysis
 READ: (1) Appeal to Virtues; (2) AMA.Principles of Medical Ethics; (3) AMA.Fundamental

Elements of Patient-Physician Relationship; (4) ANA:Code for Nurses; (5) Dr. Pepper. Version 2
TYPE: AJ steps 3-5 for the Dr. Pepper dilemma, using only appeal to rights AND virtues.

9/17 Justice in Moral Analysis

READ: (1) Appeal to Justice; (2) Appeal to Cost effectiveness & Justice; (3) Dr. Purty (yes, again)

TYPE: AJ steps 1-5 for the Dr. Purty dilemma (RP), using only the appeal to justice.

9/22 **IN-CLASS DISCUSSION # 1:** Is Dr. Purty morally required to care for ER patients? **Following the discussion, write (as a group) a complete AJ resolving this dilemma due Tuesday, 9/29.**

Making Babies? Making Trouble? Prenatal Genetic Diagnosis & Embryo Selection (Discussion #2)

9/24 Parental Integrity

READ: (1) What Are Families For? and (2) Moral Significance of *Why* We Have Children

9/29 Parental Integrity and Children's Well-being

READ: (1) Extending Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis: the ethical debate; and (2) Fetal DNA test sheds light, but stirs an ethical battle and (3) Moral Obligation to create children with the best chance of the best life

10/1 PGD and RFP

READ: Commodification of Human Reproductive Materials

10/6 PGD and Social Fallout: A False Dilemma

READ: Beneficence, Determinism and Justice

10/8 PGD and Justice

READ: Engineering Genetic Injustice

10/13 PGD, Justice, and Harms to Others

READ: (1) Turning the Disability Tide and (2) Impairment and Disability

10/15 **CAMPUS-WIDE FURLOUGH DAY NO CLASS, office hours, phone or email**

10/20 PGD and Injustice

READ: Redefining Disability

10/22 **IN-CLASS DISCUSSION #2:** From a moral point of view, **should the U.S. allow preimplantation genetic diagnosis and embryo selection/manipulation? Following the discussion, write (as a group) a complete AJ resolving this question Due Thursday, 10/29**

10/27 **MIDTERM EXAM**

10/30 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY NO office hours, phone or email communication**

Who Lives? Who Dies? Who Suffers? Who Pays?

10/29 Justice and Health Care: Who Suffers?

FILM: *One Care Now*

READ: (1) Imaginary Safety Net; (2) Take a deep breath...; (3) Future Health Consequences of ...US Household Income; (4) Is there a doctor in the house?; (5) We Have Seen the Enemy...; (6) How Healthy are US Children? (7) Nation Gets a D ;

11/2 **CAMPUS-WIDE FURLOUGH DAY NO CLASS, office hours, phone or email**

- 11/3 Who Pays? What does the money buy?
 READ: (1) Hidden Cost of Wal-Mart Jobs; (2) Health Care Premiums Surpass Minimum Wage; (3) Who Really Pays...?; (4) How much do the uninsured cost the insured?; (5) Paying For National Health Insurance And Not Getting It; (6) Mirror, Mirror on the Wall; (7) France Best, US Worst; (8) As Doctors Cater to Looks...; (9) Physician Salaries; (10) Prescription drug costs; (11) OECD Health Data 2009
- 11/5 Health as a personal responsibility; health care as a market function
 READ: (1) Let real healthcare reform begin with me; (2) Foundational Ethics of HC System...
- 11/10 Health and health care as fair opportunity
 READ: (1) Justice and Access to Health Care; (2) Imposing Personal Responsibility...
- 11/12 Health/health insurance as personal vs. social obligation
 READ: (1) Health Responsibility, the Left, and the Right; (2) Are Your Insurance Premiums My Problem?
- 11/17 Complicating factors.
 READ: (1) Beyond Health Care SES and Health; (2) Social Class and Medical Decisionmaking
- 11/19 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY NO class, office hours, phone or email communication**
HOWEVER, you are responsible for the following readings on More complicating factors on which you will be quizzed.
 READ: (1) Language Barriers to Health Care in US; (2) Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care: Fact Sheet
- 12/1 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY NO class, office hours, phone or email communication**
- 12/3 Is Just Health Care Possible?
 READ: (1) Understanding How Americans View Health Care Reform; (2) Primer on the Details of HC Reform; (3) Why We Need Health Care Reform; (4) Why We Must Ration Health Care; (5) American Values A Smoke Screen in the Debate on Health Care Reform
- 12/8 Just Health Care and Professional Integrity
 READ: (1) Access, Cost, And Financing: Achieving An Ethical Health Reform; (2) The Ethical Foundation of American Medicine; (3) Campaign for Guaranteed Healthcare for All Begins Anew in California with New Single Payer Bill
- 12/9 **PERSONAL FURLOUGH DAY NO office hours, phone or email communication**
- 12/10 FILM: *SICKO*

FINAL EXAM: *Section 03 (TR 8:00 AM): Tuesday, December 15 @ 10AM*
 Section 04 (TR 9:30 AM): Tuesday, December 15 @ noon
 Section 07 (TR 11:00 AM): Thursday, December 17 @ 2PM

Office hours during finals week: Monday and Wednesday 1:00-3:30 PM