

**Course Syllabus
Philosophy 3340
Biomedical Ethics
Spring 2006**

Course Description: Biomedical ethics is composed of two separate fields: bioethics and medical ethics. Bioethics is the study of the ethics of life (and death), and includes familiar topics such as abortion, cloning, stem cell research, allocation of scarce medical resources, and euthanasia. We shall spend approximately the first two-third of the course on these issues. For the last third of the course, we shall discuss topics in medical ethics, which is concerned with “micro” issues such as the moral underpinnings of doctor-patient relationships as well as “macro” issues such as the structures of medical institutions or the duties that societies have to provide health care for those in need. No previous coursework in philosophy is required for this course and fundamental concepts in moral philosophy (e.g., consequentialism and deontology) will be explained as they become relevant. This is a course on *theoretical* (as opposed to clinical) bioethics.

Lecture:	TR	11:00-12:15	Knaus 3512	
Sections:	T	1:00-1:50	Dunbar 4214	Siewert
	T	1:00-1:50	Dunbar 2209	Jacoby
	T	1:00-1:50	Dunbar 4206	Wirth
	T	4:00-4:50	Sangren 3211	Wirth
	T	4:00-4:50	Moore G121	Jacoby (Cancelled?)
	W	12:00-12:50	Moore G111	Siewert
	W	12:00-12:50	Moore 1115	Cancelled

Professor: Dr. Fritz Allhoff
Moore Hall 3006; Tuesday 12:30-1:30, Thursday 12:30-2:00, and by appt.
fritz.allhoff@wmich.edu; 387.4503 (w)

T.A.'s: Wally Siewert Dan Wirth
Moore 3027; Thursday 12:00-2:00 Moore 3021; W 2:00-3:00, R 12:30-1:30
walter.m.siewert@wmich.edu daniel.j.wirth@wmich.edu; 226.4213 (h)

Brennan Jacoby
Moore 3031; Thursday 12:30-2:00
brennanjacoby@hotmail.com

Note: all teaching assistants will also be available by appointment.

Text: Course Reader available at Western Michigan University Bookstore.

Grading:

Midterm #1	20%	(Thursday, February 9)
Midterm #2	20%	(Thursday, March 23)
Term Paper (1200-1500 words)	30%	(due Thursday, April 20)
Final Exam	30%	(Tuesday, April 25, 8:00a-10:00a)

Papers: Paper topics and guidelines will be given out later in the term. Students are *strongly* encouraged to meet with either the teaching assistant or the professor to review drafts.

Exams: Tests will be essay style (there may also be short answer questions) and students should bring a blue book. The final will be cumulative, though it will emphasize material covered since the midterm. Exam reviews will be held for all tests (both during and outside of class) and exam review questions will be distributed. Students will have the option of turning in study guides with completed exam review questions.

Late papers and make-up exams: Late papers will be penalized one letter grade for each day they are late (weekends excluded). Make-up exams will only be given under special circumstances and verifying documentation may be required.

Class and section attendance and participation: Students are expected to attend class daily. The readings are certainly important (some test questions will come directly from reading), but there is no substitute for class attendance. Most of the tested material will come straight from lecture, so attending practically ensures good grades. Students are also expected to attend section every week, and attendance will be taken. *Borderline final grades will be adjudicated in your favor if you have made a positive impression on the professor and/or teaching assistant through regular section attendance and (quality) participation, draft conferences, and/or submission of study guides.*

Statement on Academic Honesty: You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate (pp. 274-276) [Graduate (pp. 25-27)] Catalog that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1	Introduction to Philosophy and to Biomedical Ethics	
Unit 1: Life		
1.1 Abortion		
2	(Philosophical Argumentation and) Abortion	Mary Anne Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of the Embryo"
3	The Classical Argument against Abortion	Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"
4	Violinists and People-Seeds	Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion" (cont.)
5	Futures Worth Living	Don Marquis, "Why Abortion Is Immoral"
6	Guest Lecture: Shirley Bach (Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, Western Michigan University), Hospital Ethics Committees	
1.2 Human Reproductive Cloning & Embryonic Stem Cells		
7	The Biology of Cloning and Some Moral Arguments against It	Leon Kass, "The Wisdom of Repugnance"
8	Dispelling Myths and a New Argument	Gregory Pence, excerpts from <i>Who's Afraid of Human Cloning?</i> ; Fritz Allhoff, "Telomeres and the Ethics of Human Cloning"
9	Human Embryonic Stem Cells: The Science, the Morality, and Alternative Techniques	S. Matthew Liao, "Rescuing Human Embryo Stem Cell Research: The Blastocyst Transfer Method"
10	Midterm Exam #1	
11	Return and Discussion of Exams	
1.3 Commercial Surrogacy		
12	Commercial Surrogacy: Arguments For	Ruth Macklin, "What Is Wrong with Commodification?"
13	Commercial Surrogacy: Arguments Against	Sara Ann Ketchum, "Selling Babies and Selling Bodies"
1.4 Issues of Justice		
14	Reproductive Risk	Laura M. Purdy, "Genetics and Reproductive Risk: Can Having Children Be Immoral?"
15	Spring Break (no class)	

16	Spring Break (no class)	
Unit 2: Death		
2.1 Issues of Justice (cont.)		
17	Limited Resources and Triage	Nicholas Rescher, "The Allocation of Exotic Medical Lifesaving Therapy"
2.2 Euthanasia		
18	Conceptual Distinctions and Arguments for Voluntary Active Euthanasia	James Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia"; Dan W. Brock, "Voluntary Active Euthanasia"
19	Arguments against Voluntary Active Euthanasia	Daniel Callahan, "Physician-Assisted Dying: Self-Determination Run Amok"
Unit 3: The Doctor-Patient Relationship		
20	The Moral Foundations of Medicine	The Hippocratic Oath; Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, American Medical Association, "Fundamental Elements of the Patient-Physician Relationship"
21	Metaphors for the Doctor-Patient Relationship	James Childress and Mark Siegler, "Metaphors and Models of Doctor Patient Relationships: Their Implications of Autonomy"
22	Midterm Exam #2	
23	Return and Discussion of Exams	
24	Guest Lecture: Christian Krautkramer (The Ethics Group, American Medical Association), Access to Health Care	
25	Truth and the Physician	Bernard C. Meyer, "Truth and the Physician";
26	Truth and the Physician (cont.)	Sissela Bok, "Lies to the Sick and Dying"
27	Guest Lecture: Ed Goldman (Bioethics Program, University of Michigan), Research on Human Subjects	
28	Competence	Allen Buchanan and Dan Brock, "Standards of Competence"
29	Surrogate Decision Making	Dan W. Brock, "Surrogate Decision Making for Adults: An Ethical Framework"
30	Final Exam Review	Paper Due
Final Exam: Tuesday, April 25, 8:00-10:00a		