

## Course Syllabus

### Moral Principles and Problems Philosophy 160

### Issues in Bioethics Philosophy 356

**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. Phil 356 and Phil 160 are identical in content and requirements and are offered on a “meet together” basis.

**Professor:** Dr. Fritz Allhoff  
**Office:** 2200 AH  
**Office Hours:** TR, 1:15-2:15  
**Email:** [fallhoff@umich.edu](mailto:fallhoff@umich.edu)  
**Phone:** 734.615.6537 (w)

**Class:** TR, 11:00-12:00, AUD A AH

**Discussions:**

TR	9:00-10:00	2347 MH	Rubin
TR	10:00-11:00	2333 MH	Rubin
TR	12:00-1:00	1460 MH	Allhoff
TR	3:00-4:00	3451 MH	Herold
TR	4:00-5:00	3451 MH	Herold

**GSI:** Warren Herold, [waherold@umich.edu](mailto:waherold@umich.edu)  
1156 AH, TR, 1:00-2:00

Daniel Rubin, [rubind@umich.edu](mailto:rubind@umich.edu)  
200 Hutchins, W 2:00-3:00, F, 4:00-5:00

**Readings:** All course readings are available at [ctools.umich.edu](http://ctools.umich.edu) (under “resources”). Print copies are available at Dollar Bill Copying, 611 Church Street.

**Grading:**

Writing Assignment #1	15%	September 28
Midterm Exam	15%	October 21
Writing Assignment #2	15%	November 11
Writing Assignment #3	15%	December 9
Final Exam	20%	
Discussion Attendance/Participation	20%	

**Writing Assignments:** One week before the assignments are due—see above and calendar below—they will be released on ctools. You have one week to complete the writing assignment, which is due by 500p a week from when it was posted. Assignments submitted by 500p up to 48 hours later will be penalized one letter grade. Assignments submitted at any later time and within a week of the due date will be penalized two letter grades. Assignments will not be accepted more than a week after they are due. Extensions will not be offered, nor should they be requested.

Each writing assignment will be approximately 2,000 words, and the prompts will likely have several components. You are allowed to use your course notes as well as your course readings in the development of your answers. No other sources—including collaboration with others—should be incorporated into this assignment; the incorporation of any uncited sources will be considered plagiarism. Citations should be made to course readings as appropriate, with citations given to the author and original page of publication. (Be sure to familiarize yourself with the University’s policies on academic integrity, available at <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/saa/standards/acadjudic.html>.)

**Exams:** Exams will be in-class, and students should bring blue books. Exam reviews will be conducted in-class and in discussion sections.

**Discussion Sections:** Discussion sections are an integral part of this course; attendance and participation in these sections constitutes 20% of your overall course grade. If you need to miss your discussion section, you have two options to reclaim the points for that session: either attend another section (listed on first page of syllabus; notify discussion leader if different from your own) or else write a 750-word response to the readings that would have been covered in that discussion section. In other words, there is no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences, the point is simply that you ultimately owe work for each scheduled session. You may miss your regularly-scheduled session, at most, four times before receiving zeros for each subsequent absence (i.e., you can only avail yourself of the above alternatives up to four times).

## TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

<b>W1a</b>	9/7	Introduction to Philosophy and to Biomedical Ethics	N/A
<b>W1b</b>	9/9	(Philosophical Argumentation and) Abortion	Mary Anne Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of the Embryo"
<b>W2a</b>	9/14	The Classical Argument against Abortion	Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"
<b>W2b</b>	9/16	Violinists and People-Seeds	Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion" (cont.)
<b>W3a</b>	9/21	Futures Worth Living  <b>Writing Assignment #1 Released</b>	Don Marquis, "Why Abortion Is Immoral"
<b>W3b</b>	9/23	The Biology of Cloning and Some Moral Arguments against It	Leon Kass, "The Wisdom of Repugnance"
<b>W4a</b>	9/28	Dispelling Myths and a New Argument  <b>Writing Assignment #1 Due</b>	Gregory Pence, excerpts from <i>Who's Afraid of Human Cloning?</i> ; Fritz Allhoff, "Telomeres and the Ethics of Human Cloning"
<b>W4b</b>	9/30	Commercial Surrogacy: Arguments For	Ruth Macklin, "What Is Wrong with Commodification?"
<b>W5a</b>	10/5	Commercial Surrogacy: Arguments Against	Sara Ann Ketchum, "Selling Babies and Selling Bodies"
<b>W5b</b>	10/7	Reproductive Risk	Laura M. Purdy, "Genetics and Reproductive Risk: Can Having Children Be Immoral?"
<b>W6a</b>	10/12	TBD	
<b>W6b</b>	10/14	<b>Catch-up/Exam Review</b>	
<b>W7a</b>	10/19	<b>No Class: Fall Break</b>	
<b>W7b</b>	10/21	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
<b>W8a</b>	10/26	Guest Lecture: Dr. Chandra Sripada (Department of Philosophy, Department of Psychiatry), "Intentional Action"	N/A

<b>W8b</b>	10/28	Limited Resources and Triage	Nicholas Rescher, "The Allocation of Exotic Medical Lifesaving Therapy"
<b>W9a</b>	11/2	Conceptual Distinctions and Arguments for Voluntary Active Euthanasia	James Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia"; Dan W. Brock, "Voluntary Active Euthanasia"
<b>W9b</b>	11/4	Arguments against Voluntary Active Euthanasia <b>Writing Assignment #2 Released</b>	Daniel Callahan, "Physician-Assisted Dying: Self-Determination Run Amok"
<b>W10a</b>	11/9	The Moral Foundations of Medicine	The Hippocratic Oath; Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, American Medical Association, "Fundamental Elements of the Patient-Physician Relationship"
<b>W10b</b>	11/11	Metaphors for the Doctor-Patient Relationship <b>Writing Assignment #2 Due</b>	James Childress and Mark Siegler, "Metaphors and Models of Doctor Patient Relationships: Their Implications of Autonomy"
<b>W11a</b>	11/16	Truth and the Physician	Bernard C. Meyer, "Truth and the Physician";
<b>W11b</b>	11/18	Truth and the Physician (cont.)	Sissela Bok, "Lies to the Sick and Dying"
<b>W12a</b>	11/23	Competence	Allen Buchanan and Dan Brock, "Standards of Competence"
<b>W12b</b>	11/25	<b>No Class: Thanksgiving Break</b>	
<b>W13a</b>	11/30	Guest Lecture: Dr. Scott Kim (Department of Psychiatry, Bioethics Program), "Decision-Making Capacity"	N/A
<b>W13b</b>	12/2	Surrogate Decision Making <b>Writing Assignment #3 Released</b>	Dan W. Brock, "Surrogate Decision Making for Adults: An Ethical Framework"
<b>W14a</b>	12/7	Guest Lecture: Dr. Shirley Bach (Center for the Study of Ethics in Society, Western Michigan University), "Hospital Ethics Committees"	
<b>W14b</b>	12/9	<b>Final Exam Review</b> <b>Writing Assignment #3 Due</b>	
<b>FEW</b>	12/20	<b>Final Exam, 1030a-1230p</b>	