

**PHIL 226: ETHICS AND THE LIFE SCIENCES** FALL 2008

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INSTRUCTOR: Ethan Wilding

OFFICE: HH 326; tel: x32660.

CLASS TIME: Thursdays, 7-9:50pm; RCH 302

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course we will critically investigate some ethical issues in human research and therapy. Topics will include the right to live and the right to die (euthanasia, suicide), abortion, human experimentation (including 'informed consent' and fetal research), animal research, genetic engineering, reproductive technologies, and embryonic stem cell research.

**TEXTBOOK:** *Bioethics: An Anthology*. 2nd Edition. Kuhse and Singer (eds). Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Attendance (5%), Short Essay (15%), Midterm (25%), Term Paper (30%), in-class final (25%). Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day late.

**SCHEDULE:** (subject to minor revision)

Sept 11 \* Introduction to Ethical Theory

Sept 18 \* Abortion

- Thomson, "A Defence of Abortion" p.40
- Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral" p.51

Sept 25 \* Abortion 2

- Steinbock, "Why most abortions are not wrong" (on reserve)
- Lecture on constructing philosophical arguments

Oct. 2 \* Euthanasia 1

- Glover, "The Sanctity of Life" p.266
- "Declaration on Euthanasia"
- Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia" p.288

Oct 9 \* Euthanasia 2. *Short Papers Due*

- Nesbitt, "Is killing no worse than letting die?" p.292
- Kuhse, "Why killing is not always worse ..." p.297.

Oct. 16 \* Gene therapy / Eugenics -

- Glover, "Questions about some uses of genetic engineering" p.187.
- Lappe, "Ethical issues in manipulating human germ line" p. 198.
- Newson and Williamson, "Should we undertake genetic research on intelligence?" p. 219.

Oct 23 \* Human Embryos - Stem Cell Research

- Harris, "Stem cells, sex, and procreation" p.545
- See online material.

Oct 30 \* **Midterm**

## Nov 6 \* Animal Research

- Kant, "Duties towards animals" p561.
- Bentham, "A Utilitarian View" p. 566
- Singer, "All animals are equal" p. 568

## Nov 13 \* Human Subjects / Clinical Research

- Beecher, "Ethics and Clinical Research" p.505
- Freedman, "Equipose and the Ethics of Clinical Research" p. 513

Nov 20 \* Organ Donation - *Term Papers Due*

- Titmus, "Why give to strangers?" p. 479
- Kluge, "Organ donation and retrieval" p.51
- Radcliff et al., "The case for allowing kidney sales" p.487.
- Harris, "The Survival lottery" p.491.

## Nov 27 \* Informed Consent and Autonomy

- Kant, "On a supposed right to lie from altruistic motives" p.603
- Collins, "Should doctors tell the truth?" p605.
- Higgs, "On telling patients the truth" p.611.
- \* In-class **take-home final**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

GRIEVANCE: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

DISCIPLINE: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

APPEALS: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

NOTE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.