

Phil 226 (001): Ethics and the Life Sciences Winter 2008

Professor Lorraine Besser-Jones
Office: HH 328
Phone: x32824
Email: lbesserj@uwaterloo.ca
Course Website: UWACE; <http://www.uwace.uwaterloo.ca>

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 am-12:00 noon, Thursdays 10:00-11:00 am

Required Text: *Bioethics: An Anthology* 2nd edition. Ed Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer, Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

additional items on electronic reserve

Course Requirements

5% Class Attendance
15% Short Paper (due January 29)
25% Midterm Exam (February 14)
30% Term Paper (due March 13)
25% In-class final exam (April 3)

Note on avoidance of academic offences:

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to “group work” and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

Readings Schedule (subject to change; changes will be posted on course website)

Tuesday, January 8: Course Overview

Thursday, January 10: Marquis, “Why abortion is immoral” p. 51-62

Tuesday, January 15: Steinbock, “Why most abortions are not wrong” **ON RESERVE**

Thursday, January 17: No new reading/Go over paper topics

Tuesday, January 22: Thomson, “A defense of Abortion”, p. 40-50

Thursday, January 24: Warren, “On the moral and legal status of Abortion”, sect. I only,
ON RESERVE

Tuesday, January 29: Rachels, “Active and Passive Euthanasia”, p. 288-291;

Nesbitt, “Is Killing no worse than letting die?”, p. 292-296.

Khuse, “Why Killing is not always . . .”, p. 297-300.

SHORT PAPER DUE

Thursday, January 31: “In the Matter of Claire C. Conroy”, excerpt. **ON RESERVE**

Tuesday, February 5: Dworkin, “Life Past Reason”, p. 357-364

Thursday, February 7: Dresser, “Dworkin on Dementia . . .”, p. 365-374

Tuesday, February 12: Krutzen, “The Case of Robert and Tracy Latimer” **ONLINE**, see
course website for link.

Thursday, February 14: **MIDTERM**

Tuesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 21: **READING WEEK**

Tuesday, February 26: Beecher, “Ethics and Clinical Research”, p. 505-512

Thursday, February 28: Freedman, “Equipoise and the Ethics of Clinical Trials”, p. 513-
519;

Hellman, “The Patient and the Public Good”, p. 520-524

Tuesday, March 4: Tännsjö, “The Morality of Clinical Research: A Case Study”, p. 525-
532

Thursday, March 6: Lurie and Wolfe, “Unethical Trials of Interventions . . .”, p. 533-538;
Bagenda and Musoke-Mudido, “We’re trying to help . . .”, p. 539-
540.

Tuesday, March 11: **NO CLASS (CAMPUS DAY)**

Thursday, March 13: Kant, "Duties towards Animals", p. 564-565

Bentham, "A Utilitarian View", p. 566-567

PAPERS DUE

Tuesday, March 18: Singer, "All Animals are Equal", p. 569-577

Thursday, March 20: Frey and Paton, "Vivisection, Morals, and Medicine" p. 578-588

Tuesday, March 25: Rescher, "The Allocation of Exotic Medical Lifesaving Therapy", p. 410-420

Thursday, March 27: Harris, "The Value of Life", p. 428-436.

Tuesday, April 1: Lockwood, "Quality of Life and Resource Allocation", p. 451-464.

Thursday, April 3: **IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM**