

## **Bioethics**

PHIL 165.001

M/Tu/W/Th/F 1:15- 2:45pm

Caldwell 105

### *Instructor*

Wesley Sauret

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Office: 12A Caldwell Hall (in the basement)

Office Hours: After class every day until 3:30pm. There will be additional office hours around paper deadlines and by appointment.

### *Course Description*

The practice of medicine and the development of health care policy raise ethical questions that are both theoretically challenging and practically important: Is abortion permissible? When are doctors permitted to deceive their patients? Should organ donors be allowed to sell transplantable organs? What norms should guide our treatment of animals? We will be reading a selection of contemporary papers that address these questions.

### *Course Requirements*

- Paper 1 (3-4 pg): 30% of final grade
- Paper 2 (3-4 pg): 30% of final grade
- Final Paper (4 pg): 30% of final grade
- Presentations: 10% of final grade

### *Explanation of Assessment*

Your performance on the three assigned papers will determine your grade. You will have about a week to work on each paper, which, in a summer class, means you will get your first paper prompt very early. I am happy to talk about your draft during office hours (and I highly recommend coming to office hours).

Your presentation grade will depend on how much you participate in the discussions lead by the *other students*, not on your own presentation. I understand that presenting on an article in front of the class can be intimidating, so I am only grading you on how much you help out the person presenting, not on your own public speaking skills.

### *Other Course Policies*

Regular attendance is expected, but I will not be taking attendance. Laptops are allowed in class, but if you have a tendency to regularly check Facebook in class, please sit towards the back so you don't distract the students behind you. Papers are due at the *beginning* of class on the day they are due. Late papers will be accepted, up to three days late, but there will be a deduction of 5 points for each 24 hour period that passes after the original due date.

### *Course Materials*

All readings will be distributed on Sakai. Below you will find the readings and the order in which we will be covering the material.

## **What Makes Death Bad?**

1. *Introduction* – Rachels “The Status of Intuitions”
2. *Epicurus* – Rachels, “Death and Evil”
3. *Deprivation Theory* – Nagel, “Death”
4. *Biographical Lives* – Rachels, “The Concept of a Life”
5. *Asymmetry Problem* – Brueckner & Fisher, “Why is Death Bad?”

## **Abortion**

6. *For Abortion* – Thomson “A Defense of Abortion”; Tooley “Abortion and Infanticide”
7. *Against Abortion* – Marquis “Why Abortion is Immoral”
8. *Documentary* – The Last Abortion Clinic

## **Euthanasia**

9. *Killing & Letting Die* – Rachels, “Active and Passive Euthanasia”; Nesbitt, “Is Killing No Worse than Letting Die?”
10. *Active Euthanasia* – Hill, “The Note”; Callahan, “When Self-Determination Runs Amok”
11. *Legal Considerations* – Dworkin “Assisted Suicide: The Philosophers’ Brief”

## **Animal Welfare**

12. *Animal Welfare* – Singer “All Animals are Equal”; Regan “The Case for Animal Rights”
13. *Medical Testing* – Cohen “The Case for the Use of Animals in Clinical Research”
14. *Killing Animals* – Singer, “Killing Humans and Killing Animals”

## **Right to Autonomy**

15. *Autonomy* – Dworkin “Life Past Reason”; Dresser “Dworkin on Dementia”
16. *Importance of Values* – Jaworska “Respecting the Margins of Agency”
17. *Giving Hope* – Ruddick “Hope and Deception”

## **Miscellaneous**

18. *Organ Markets* – McLaughlin “What is a Kidney Worth?”; Blumstein “Legalizing Payment for Transplantable Cadaveric Organs”
19. *Genetic Enhancement* – Glover “Questions about Some Uses of Genetic Enhancement”
20. *Health Care* – President’s Commission “An Ethical Framework for Access to Health Care”; Daniels “Is There a Right to Health Care, and if so What Does it Encompass?”