

Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto at Mississauga
Summer 2017
PHL 283 H5F: Bioethics

Lecture Time: Mondays & Wednesdays 12-3pm
Lecture Location: Deerfield Hall 2070

Instructor: Parisa Moosavi
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:15-5:15pm
Office Location: Deerfield Hall, Study Area (Lower Level)

Grader: Kayla Wiebe
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Course Webpage: on Blackboard (<https://portal.utoronto.ca>)

Course Description:

There are many ethical questions that arise in relation to health care, medicine, and biomedical research. For instance, what does it mean for healthcare professionals to respect the autonomy of their patients? Does respecting human life require us to do all we can to promote human life? What is our obligation toward unborn babies? Can genetic screening be used to enhance the health of an individual or community? What is the best way to allocate healthcare resources? This course is dedicated to exploring these moral questions and issues.

We start by a preliminary study of philosophical approaches to morality to set the context for examining bioethical issues. Then we focus on certain 'micro' issues in medical care that arise in the physician-patient relationship, particularly in relation to paternalism and autonomy. After that, we turn to moral questions regarding the beginning and end of human life, studying questions surrounding euthanasia, abortion, and genetic screening. Finally, we explore a 'macro' question in healthcare policy regarding how medical resources should be distributed.

Required Text:

All the readings will be made available over the course's Blackboard page.

Required Technology:

i>clicker

You are required to purchase an i>clicker remote for in-class participation. i>clicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions I pose during class, and you will be graded on that feedback and your in-class participation. Participation with i>clicker will account for part of the "Attendance and Participation" portion of your grade (see the full evaluation scheme below). I will drop your lowest i>clicker score to account for the one time you may forget to bring your i>clicker to class.

You may purchase one of the following models:

The original i>clicker

i>clicker +

i>clicker 2

(The mobile application, REEF Polling by i>clicker will not be allowed.)

How to register:

To receive credit for the responses you submit with i>clicker, you must register by the university add deadline, May 14.

You must register your clicker on Blackboard by choosing i>Clicker Registration from the menu on the left. The remote ID is the series of numbers and sometimes letters found on the bottom of the back of your i>clicker remote.

i>Clicker will be used in every lecture, and you are responsible for bringing your remote to every class.

Cheating:

I consider bringing a fellow student's i>clicker to class to be cheating and a violation of the University Honor Code. If you are caught with a remote other than your own or have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will forfeit all clicker points and may face additional disciplinary action.

Evaluation:

15%	Paper 1 (Argument Reconstruction)	400-500 words	Due May 19
20%	Paper 2 (Argument Assessment)	700-900 words	Due May 31
3%	Paper 3 Draft	1 page	Due June 12
27%	Paper 3 (Comparative Essay)	1300-1500 words	Due June 16
20%	Final Exam	2-hour exam during exam week	
15%	Attendance and Participation		

Requirements, Assignments, and Evaluation:

- 1) **Paper 1 (Argument Reconstruction Assignment):** Sometimes (often!) the structure of a writer’s argument isn’t immediately self-evident in the text—that is, it isn’t laid-out step-by-step, and it doesn’t just ‘pop’ out on a quick read. But, it’s incumbent upon us to try to get clear about just what these writers are trying to convey and defend in their arguments. Setting out what you see to be the steps (premises and conclusion) of the argument is this 1-2 page paper assignment.
- 2) **Paper 2 (Argument Assessment Assignment):** In your second assignment, in addition to reconstructing the writer’s argument, you will be asked to briefly articulate and evaluate a challenge to the argument you have reconstructed in roughly 3 pages.
- 3) **Paper 3 Draft:** For this 1-page assignment, you are required to write an outline of your third paper (see below) or ideally a reconstruction of your argument, and bring 5 copies of your draft to the essay workshop. You also need to sign up for a group on Blackboard prior to the workshop. I will instruct you on how to do this the week before the workshop.
- 4) **Paper 3 (Comparative Essay Assignment):** For this 4-5 page paper (1500 words max), you will be asked to comparatively reconstruct and critically assess two opposing arguments on a topic or issue covered in our readings.
- 5) **Final Exam:** There will be a 2-hour final examination for this course. It will cover all of the material discussed in the course. The date and location of the exam will be announced once the University has set the date.
- 6) **Attendance and Participation:** All students are required to attend and participate in lectures. The participation mark is based on contribution in discussion as well as

completing in-class quizzes using i-Clickers. These quizzes will test you on your understanding of the reading material as well as the ongoing lecture and discussion.

Submitting Written Assignments:

All three paper assignments will be turned in via Blackboard and Turnitin.com.

Submitting Written Work via Turnitin.com:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. You can find the guide for student use here:

<http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/guide-students.htm>

Submission of work via Turnitin.com is voluntary. However, if you choose to opt-out of using Turnitin.com, you must notify the instructor of your decision prior to the due date of the assignment. You will then be required to submit hard copies of all notes, outlines, and rough drafts used in the writing of your paper. You will also be required to meet with the instructor to discuss the research methods you utilized in writing your paper. Should you opt-out of using Turnitin.com and should you fail to meet the above listed requirements, you will receive a zero mark on the assignment, without exception.

Paper Extension & Late Paper Submission Policy:

You may be granted an extension of up to 3 days maximum on one paper assignment, no questions asked, only if you email the grader requesting an extension at least 48 hours before the due date of the assignment. Any other extension requests will require an official, university sanctioned written note. Late submission of any written assignment will be penalized 3 percentage points for each day that the assignment is late. If a paper is due online on Friday at 11:59 pm, it will be counted 1 day late if submitted between 12:00 am and 11:59 pm on Saturday. Submissions between 12:00 am on 11:59 pm on Sunday will count as 2 days late, and so on.

Missing the Final Exam:

There are no extensions on the Final Exam. Should you miss the final exam, you will need to appeal to the registrar for the possibility of taking a make-up exam. This is under the

jurisdiction of the registrar. If you miss the final exam and are not permitted a make-up, you will receive a zero for this requirement.

Source Materials:

All source materials appealed to in your written assignments that do not come from assigned course texts, must be cleared with the instructor prior to the due date of the assignment. If you do not clear additional sources with the instructor prior to turning in your paper, you will be penalized (10% for each source not-cleared, only if the source is cited). None of the assignments for this class will require resources beyond the required readings.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

Cheating on the final exam will result in, at least, a zero mark on the exam. The transgression will be reported to the administration as well, which may result in further penalties.

As for your writings, these are meant to reflect your own ideas, interpretations, reflections, and critiques. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Confirmed cases of plagiarism will result in a zero mark for the assignment, and may result in failure of the course. All cases of plagiarism will be referred for departmental review by the Philosophy Department, which will determine whether or not the case will need further referral to the University Tribunal.

The UTM statement and more information on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism can be found at the following address: <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity>

I know that the allure of internet-accessible materials is strong, but I implore you to resist the urge of turning to these sources. You're all quite talented and capable students; you will all do just fine on your assignments, if you put in the work! And, I'm always happy to discuss your work with you during office hours. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please don't hesitate to ask the instructor. You are all expected to read, understand, and commit to the University of Toronto Academic Honesty code. We will not accept any excuses based on the claim that you didn't know what you were doing amounted to plagiarism. We take this very seriously, and so should you.

Citation Conventions:

It is essential that you cite your source material, when completing your written assignment for class. If you do not cite the assigned texts in your written assignment, your grade will not be higher than 75%. And, to be clear, citing your source material is not the same thing as offering a 'Works Cited' or 'Bibliography' page. You are required to cite your source material in the body of your text (or in footnotes or endnotes) whenever you quote or refer to an author's arguments or claims.

We are not particular about citation conventions (e.g. MLA, APA, or Chicago Style) as long as you cite material in a consistent way. The use of parenthetical in-text citations, including author and page number, with an appended works cited page, is fine—e.g. a proper parenthetical citation for a quote taken from the current page of this syllabus would look like this: (Moosavi, 5). And, again, please note that you must cite more than just quotations. Citations should be made whenever you are discussing any ideas or arguments from a text. Here are two links to sites that provide further links to various referencing conventions:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/plagiarism/students/referencing/conventions.html>

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/>

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodation for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessibility/>

Email Policy:

I will not be able to respond to in-depth, substantive questions about the readings or assignments over email. However, I am more than happy to discuss substantive questions of these sorts in office hours. So, please come and see me! I will also be happy to address short, logistical, non-substantive questions over email.

Electronic Devices:

Although you will be allowed to take notes on a laptop or tablet, you are not permitted to use your mobile phone in class.

Marking Review:

The grader for the course will be available to discuss and explain the grades and marks that you receive for particular assignments. If you wish to appeal your grade, you should raise your concern with the grader before requesting a marking review from the instructor. In the case of a marking review, you will receive the new grade given by the instructor, even if it is worse than your initial grade.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

NOTE:

This schedule may change. Any changes to the schedule will be announced on Blackboard. You are expected to have the readings completed *prior to the lecture*.

M: May 8	Lecture 1	Course Introduction Arguments and How to Evaluate Them Introduction to Moral Theories (no reading)	
W: May 10	Lecture 2	Moral theories <i>Mill</i> , Utilitarianism (selections) <i>Kant</i> , The Categorical Imperative (selections) <i>Hursthouse</i> , Virtue Ethics (selections)	~23 pages
M: May 15	Lecture 3 <u>Paper 1</u> Assigned	Paternalism <i>Dworkin</i> , Paternalism <i>Goldman</i> , The Refutation of Medical Paternalism <i>Ackerman</i> , Why Doctors Should Intervene	~25 pages
W: May 17	Lecture 4	Euthanasia <i>Rachels</i> , Active and Passive Euthanasia <i>Sumner</i> , Death by Request (selections) [<i>Steinbock</i> , The Intentional Termination of Life]	~25 pages
(F: May 19)	<u>Paper 1</u> Due		
M: May 22	(No lecture)	Victoria Day	
W: May 24	Lecture 5 <u>Paper 2</u> Assigned	Abortion I <i>Marquis</i> , Why Abortion is Immoral <i>Thomson</i> , A Defence of Abortion	~30 pages
(F: May 26)	<u>Paper 1</u> Returned		

M: May 29	Lecture 6	Abortion II <i>Pope John Paul II, The Unspeakable Crime of Abortion</i> <i>Warren, On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion</i> <i>Hursthouse, Virtue Theory and Abortion (Selections)</i> ~25 pages
W: May 31	Lecture 7 <u>Paper 2</u> Due <u>Paper 3</u> Assigned	Disability & Genetic Selection I <i>Shabram, Zika Babies Reveal Our Society's Deep,</i> <i>Dangerous Prejudice against Disabilities</i> <i>Newell, Disability, Bioethics, and Rejected Knowledge</i> <i>Steinbock, Disability, Prenatal Testing, and Selective</i> <i>Abortion</i> ~30 pages
M: June 5	Lecture 8	Disability & Genetic Selection II <i>McMahan, The Morality of Screening for Disability</i> <i>Barnes, Valuing Disability, Causing Disability</i> ~30 pages
W: June 7	Lecture 9 <u>Paper 2</u> Returned <u>Workshop Sign-up</u>	Justice & Health Care <i>Singer, Why We Must Ration Health Care</i> <i>Harris, The Value of Life</i> ~22 pages
M: June 12	Lecture 10 <u>Paper 3 draft</u> Due	Essay Workshop
W: June 14	Lecture 11	Exam Preparation Game
(F: June 16)	<u>Paper 3</u> Due	