

Philosophy 155A
Online

Medical Ethics

Summer 2020, C Session

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Course Description:

In this course, students will be introduced to some of the major philosophical issues associated with medical ethics, including abortion, euthanasia, selective reproduction, and exploitation. We will consider the stance of major ethical theories on these questions and investigate compelling objections and arguments. Along the way, we will practice philosophy and work to improve philosophical skills such as asking good questions, explaining philosophical arguments, and criticizing arguments clearly. Students will be expected to engage with these issues by participating in lecture and section, completing writing exercises throughout the session, and sitting a final examination.

A Note About the Course Workload and Pace:

Please understand that this course only meets over the course of six weeks, but it is intended to cover the same amount of material and workload as a course that meets for ten weeks plus a finals week. This means that you should expect the course to require more reading per week than a course that meets during the regular quarter and to expect more material to be covered during each week than would be covered during a lecture for a course during the regular quarter. We meet for only 6 weeks. A course during the regular quarter normally for around ten weeks *and* has a final exam week. So you should expect to do approximately *twice* as much reading *per week* as you would expect to do during the regular quarter.

Texts:

Readings will be made available on the course website.

Course Website: <https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/201C-PHILOS155A-1>

Discord Server:

Every Tuesday, from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, I will be answering your questions via text chat on our Discord server. Discord will keep a record of our discussions; you should check our channels for information about logistics, course content, and assignments.

Your link to our Discord server is here: <https://discord.gg/Tbgj9XV>

If you have any question about how to use Discord, feel free to email me. However, you should first consult this: <https://support.discordapp.com/hc/en-us>

Zoom Office Hours: Every Thursday, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, I will be answering your questions via video chat on Zoom. These office hours will **not be recorded**. I'll post the Zoom invitation weekly under the "Zoom Office hours" tab of our course website.

If you are having connectivity issues with Zoom, I recommend asking your questions on our Discord server instead.

¹ Please use email only for simple administrative purposes such as setting up appointments. I strongly encourage you to come by and talk to me personally about philosophical issues and more involved personal or academic issues.

Videos: Rather than stream live lectures, I will be posting videos in which I discuss the reading and course content. I plan to post 3-4 videos each week. These will stay up throughout the entirety of the course and can be viewed anytime. Videos are posted under the week to which they correspond.

Q&A: If we were meeting in person for this course, I would normally devote substantial lecture time to answering student questions. To replicate this (as best I can) in the online format, twice per week I will host a recorded Zoom question-and-answer session. This session will be **recorded** so that it can be posted for students to watch later. You are highly encouraged to attend even if you do not have a question, attendance is not required. I may answer questions during this session that I receive in other formats, such as via discord or email, and students are welcome to attend and ask questions that they have not submitted in advance.

Zoom Q&A will take place Tuesdays 2:30 to 3:00 pm and Thursdays 2:30 to 3:00 pm.

I'll post the Zoom invitation weekly under the "Zoom Q&A" tab of our course website.

Evaluation:

Breakdown:

10% Weekly Reading Responses
5% Timely Extras
10% Peer Review Assignments
10% Section Participation

15% Paper 1: 3-5 pages
25% Paper 2: 5-7 pages
20% Weekly Quizzes
5% Lecture Participation

Weekly Reading Responses: Every week students must submit a Weekly Reading Response assignment, which is to be completed and submitted before the beginning of Thursday's lecture (before 1 pm Pacific on Thursdays) to Turnitin via the relevant link on the course website. They should be short: $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 page (double-spaced). In your response, you can raise a question, contribute a thought, agree or disagree with the author's argument, etc. The response is NOT a summary of the reading. The response should show that you have critically engaged with the reading. The responses will be graded on a pass/fail basis. [5 pass: A, 4 pass: A-, 3 pass: B+, 2 or fewer pass: no credit.]

Timely Extras: There are two "Timely Extras" assignments. The first is due by 5 pm the Friday of week 2, and the second is due by 5 pm the Friday of week 4. You are encouraged to submit them whenever they occur to you (in advance of the deadline). A Timely Extra might be a news story, a scene from a novel, or even a conversation you had with someone outside the course—anything relevant to the material we are studying. To submit it, go to the course website, find the "discussion board" link in the left hand tab, find the topic entitled "Timely Extra 1" (or 2 if relevant), and post your Timely Extra as a comment. Write a description of your "Timely Extra" and explain how it relates to what we have studied. They should be short: $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 page (double-spaced). (Only Timely Extras with complete descriptions and compelling explanations will receive credit.) Provide links, where possible. Timely Extras will be graded pass/fail and are worth 5% of the overall course grade.

Section Participation: Participation in discussion section is worth 10% of the grade. For more information about your section grade, consult with your TA.

Peer Review Assignments: Each round of peer review is worth 5% of the course grade. For each of the two assigned papers, each student will review his or her own paper and two other papers, using the PeerMark function of turnitin. Reviews will not affect paper grades but will be graded pass/fail. Students who do not complete their three reviews (or who do not do so in good faith) will earn 0%. Students who do complete their three reviews in good faith will earn the full 5%.

Papers: You will be assigned two papers throughout the course of the summer quarter.

Paper Late Policy: Papers that are late are considered to have been turned in on the next day and will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day late (including weekend days). The same late policy applies to the drafts; late penalties for drafts will be charged against the grade of the final paper. Email submissions will not be accepted. Under appropriate circumstances, extensions may be granted, if arranged 48 hours or more in advance of the time the paper is due. Contact me via email to arrange such an extension. Extensions will not be granted within 48 hours, short of a documented medical or family emergency.

Weekly Quizzes: We will have weekly quizzes, which I will aim to post by Tuesday of each week under the “quiz” tab of our course website. Students will have until Saturday at 11:59 PM to submit the quizzes. Students will be able to attempt each quiz twice, and they are allowed to consult with the reading and their lecture notes when attempting to answer the quiz questions. Quizzes will focus on the lecture video content.

Lecture Participation: Lecture participation is worth 5% of your course grade. Students will need to sign up for two weeks during the course (once during weeks 1-3 and once during weeks 4-6) to talk with Jenna about their questions regarding course content. You should come to office hours or the question and answer session during the week for which you have signed up with 2 prepared questions or comments. (This is not a quiz nor oral exam: it is perfectly acceptable to be confused when you come. What is important is that you have thought a bit in advance about what you are confused about and would like to discuss.)

You can sign up here: <https://forms.gle/Li7m4tU9i2VResVY6>

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to know and to follow the university’s guidelines for academic honesty. Academic misconduct can occur in a variety of ways, including (but not limited to) cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. When in doubt about whether some academic practice is acceptable, ask your instructor for assistance. Always err on the side of caution. Any suspected violation of university policy regarding academic conduct will be reported directly to the Office of the Dean of Students, without exception. UCLA’s policies on academic and intellectual integrity can be found at:

- <https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/studentconductcode>
- <https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>

Schedule of Classes, Readings, and Assignments:

Week 1

Tuesday, August 4: Cochlear Implants?

Required Reading: Tucker, Bonnie, “Deaf Culture, Cochlear Implants, and Elective Disability” *Hastings Center Report*

Sparrow, Robert, “Defending Deaf Culture: The Case of Cochlear Implants”

Paper 1 assignment passed out

Thursday, August 6: Cochlear Implants? Cont.

Required Reading: Davis, Dena, “Genetic Dilemmas and the Child’s Right to an Open Future,” *Hastings Center Report*

Grodin and Lane “Ethical Issues in Cochlear Implant Surgery: An Exploration into Disease, Disability, and the Best Interests of the Child”

Optional Reading: Davis, Dena, “Genetic Dilemmas and the Child’s Right to an Open Future,” *Rutgers Law Journal*

Week 2

Thursday, August 6: Introduction to the Course

What is Medical Ethics? What are we up to here?
Short overview of relevant ethical theories

Required Reading: “Health Care Ethics,” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Selections
<https://www.iep.utm.edu/h-c-ethi/>

Optional Reading: “Consequentialism,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism/>

“Deontological Ethics,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-deontological/>

Tuesday, August 11: Mini-Unit: Moral Relativism and Moral Skepticism

Required Reading: “Moral Relativism,” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Selections
<https://www.iep.utm.edu/moral-re/>

Optional Reading: “Moral Skepticism *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/skepticism-moral/>

Tuesday, August 11 at 11:59 PM: Paper 1 Draft Due ONLINE TO TURNITIN
Begin PeerMark Assignment

Thursday, August 13: (Dis)Ability

Required Reading: Harris, John, “One principle and three fallacies of disability studies,”
Journal of Medical Ethics

Barnes, Elizabeth “Constructing Disability,” in *Minority Body*

Optional Reading: Koch, T., “Disability and Difference: Balancing Social and Physical
Constructions,” *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Jones, B., “Impairment, Disability and Handicap—old fashioned
concepts?” *Journal of Medical Ethics*

Edwards, “Prevention of disability on grounds of suffering,” *Journal of
Medical Ethics*

PeerMark of Paper 1 due by 11:59 PM on Friday 8/14

Week 3

Tuesday, August 18: Abortion and (Dis)Ability

Required Reading: Brock, Dan, “Preventing Genetically Transmitted Disabilities while
Respecting Persons with Disabilities” in *Quality of Life and Human
Difference: Genetic Testing, Health Care, and Disability*

Paper 1 FINAL DRAFT due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday 8/18

Thursday, August 20: Abortion and (Dis)Ability

Kittay, Eva “How Not to Argue for Selective Reproductive Procedures” in *Learning from my Daughter: The Value and Care of Disabled Minds*

Asch, Adrienne, “Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortion: A Challenge to Practice and Policy”

Paper 2 assignment passed out

Week 4

Tuesday, August 25: Abortion, Continued

Required Reading: Judith Jarvis Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”
Don Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”

Friday, August 28 at 11:59 PM: Paper 2 Draft Due ONLINE TO TURNITIN
Begin PeerMark Assignment

Thursday, August 27: Euthanasia

Required Reading: Dworkin, Ronald, Thomas Nagel, Robert Nozick, John Rawls, and Judith Jarvis Thomson, “Assisted Suicide: The Philosophers’ Brief”

Velleman, David, “A Right to Self-Termination?”

Optional Reading: “Voluntary Euthanasia,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/euthanasia-voluntary/>

Vacco v. Quill 521 US 793 (1997) and Washington v. Glucksberg 521 US 702 (1997) – Supreme Court cases on the right to die

Week 5

Tuesday, September 1: The Disability Objection to Euthanasia

Required Reading: Ing Wong-Ward, disability advocate
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-may-3-2018-1.4645398/a-compromised-life-is-worth-living-why-ing-wong-ward-won-t-choose-medically-assisted-death-1.4645437>

Thursday, September 3: Exploitation

- Required Reading:** Kirkwood, Ken, “On the Exploitation of Research Subjects”
Wendler, Dan, “Informed Consent, Exploitation, and Whether it is Possible to Conduct Human Subjects Research Without Either One
Phillips, Trisha, “Exploitation in Payments to Research Subjects”
- Optional Reading:** “Exploitation,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/exploitation/>

PeerMark of Paper 2 due by 1:00 PM on Wednesday 9/2

Paper 2 FINAL DRAFT due by 1:00 PM on 9/3

Week 6

Tuesday, September 8: Nudging

- Required Reading:** Goldman, Alan, “The Refutation of Medical Paternalism”
Ackerman, Terrence F., “Why Doctors Should Intervene”
- Optional Reading:** “Paternalism,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (See especially §4.)
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/paternalism/>

Thursday, September 10: Catch-up Day/Student Choice

Be sure to email me if there’s something you’d like me to cover!

Some helpful campus resources:

*Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): (310) 825-0768 (in Wooden Center West): High-quality counseling and stress-management services. Drop-in and by appointment. Also offers 24-hour crisis management over the phone.

*Undergraduate Writing Center: (310) 206-1320; wcenter@ucla.edu; A61 Humanities (Mon-Thurs 10 am – 6 pm; Fri 10 am – 3 pm; 50-minute appointments) / 228 Powell (Mon-Thurs 6-9 pm; 50-minute appointments) / 115 Rieber Hall (for on-campus residents only; Sun-Thurs 7-9 pm; 50 and 25-minute appointments). Provides free writing assistance to students: offers one-on-one sessions on their writing. You can discover ways to start your paper, discuss your writing in-person or online, learn new editing strategies, and become a confident writer. Make an appointment at www.wp.ucla.edu. Click on “Schedule an Appointment” under the “Undergraduate Writing Center” menu or drop-in during scheduled hours.

*Center for Accessible Education (Previously known as the Office for Students with Disabilities): Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit www.cae.ucla.edu.

(If you have a disability and need accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and make arrangements with this office.)

* Academic Advancement Program: Services and support for members of all historically underrepresented populations and for low income students of all ethnicities. (310) 206-1551; (310) 825-1481. Open Mon-Fri from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

* Office of Ombuds Services: You may ask this office for assistance with problems pertaining to the abuse of power at the university, academic dishonesty, grade disputes, racial or gender insensitivity or harassment, or violations of the university policies or procedures. Its services are independent, neutral, confidential, and informal. (310) 825-7627; Strathmore Building, 501 Westwood Plaza, Ste. 105.

* Scholarship Resource Center: (310) 206-2875; 233 Covell Commons; Hours: 11 am – 6 pm (5 pm summer) (M-F); Provides free scholarship information, workshops, resources, and support services to all UCLA students, regardless of financial aid eligibility.

* Information about what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it:

<http://guides.library.ucla.edu/citing/plagiarism/avoid>

* CARE: Sexual Violence Prevention & Response: Campus Assault Resources & Education (CARE) is a safe place for student survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking to get support, consultation, and to have a confidential place to talk. CARE offers free, confidential services to all currently enrolled students. You can contact a CARE advocate at (310) 794-4959 or CAREadvocate@caps.ucla.edu or go here for more information: <http://www.careprogram.ucla.edu/>. The CARE Advocates are located in the CARE office in John Wooden Center West, 1st Floor.