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| M-F 10:45-12:45  TBA | **Bioethics**  **Syllabus** | PHIL-105-01  Summer 2016 |

**Instructor** Trip Glazer Office Hours: (or by appt.)

wpg25@georgetown.edu M-F 10:00-10:30, location TBA

**Course Description:** Bioethics is the interdisciplinary study of the ethics of medicine, biological research, and health policy. Students will be introduced to key concepts in ethical theory, and then apply these concepts to real world problems concerning the doctor-patient relationship, the ethics of research, reproductive technology and abortion, and end of life care and euthanasia.

**Course Goals:** -To master the basic concepts of ethical theory

**-**To learn about some of the central problems addressed by contemporary bioethics

**-**To apply abstract ethical principles to messy, real world cases

**-**To improve one’s critical thinking, reading, and writing skills

**Textbook:** Vaughn, Lewis, Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases (2nd Edition), ISBN: 978-0199796236. Oxford University Press.

**Assessment:** Preparedness (40% of your final grade)

3 Short Papers (each worth 20% of your final grade)

**Preparedness:** At the beginning of each class there will be a reading comprehension quiz, graded as follows:

**4 (A):** Answered three questions correctly

**3 (B):** Answered two questions correctly

**2 (C):** Answered one question correctly

**1 (D):** Answered no questions correctly

**0 (F):** Absent from class

At the end of the semester I will drop your three lowest grades.

**Papers:** Papers will be ~750 words in length (2-3 double-spaced pages) and will defend a moral perspective on an issue. More information will be provided in class. Late papers will be penalized a third of a letter grade per day late.

**Computer Policy:** Laptop computers, tablets, and other electronics are not permitted, unless otherwise noted.

**Honor Code:** Students found to be in violation with the honor code will be reported to the Honor Council and will receive a failing grade on the exam, or in the course, or worse, depending on the severity of the infraction.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1: Ethics of Care**

* Paternalism (Can doctors ever override a patient’s decisions for the patient’s own good?)
* Truth-Telling and Confidentiality (Can doctors ever withhold information from patients?)
* Informed Consent (Under what conditions is a patient’s decision final?)

**Week 2: Ethics of Research**

* Clinical Equipoise (Is it ethical to use a placebo in research if known treatments exist?)
* Minimal Risk (Under what conditions is it ethical to expose research subjects to risk?)
* Justice and Research in the Developing World (Is it ethical to test a drug in developing countries if only people in developed countries can afford it?)

**Week 3: Ethics of Birth**

* Abortion (Under what conditions is it ethical to terminate a pregnancy?)
* Genetic Choices (Is it ethical to use to technology to manipulate the genes of one’s future offspring?)
* Cloning (Is cloning ever ethical?)

**Week 4: Ethics of Death/Health Policy**

* Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide (Under what conditions is it ethical to end a life early?)
* Vaccination (Can vaccinations be made mandatory?)
* Universal Health Care (Do we have an obligation to make health care available to everyone?)