
BIOETHICS

PHIL105

Course Description

Should we protect patient confidentiality even if doing so may harm others? Is it morally permissible to allow parents to deliberately select for the presence of a particular disease or disability in their child? Is it ever okay for a doctor to lie to a patient “for the patient’s own good”?

Ethics examines and develops theories of right and wrong generally. Bioethics focuses on ethical issues in medical research, biotechnology, and healthcare at both the individual and global level. In this course, we will examine five key issues in contemporary bioethics: patient and provider autonomy, disability, human enhancement, reproduction, and climate change. Our aim will be to understand the complex ethical issues that arise in actual case studies and develop philosophically sophisticated responses.

Learning Goals

- Develop a familiarity with important case studies and contemporary approaches to bioethics.
- Increase proficiency in reading, interpreting, and assessing philosophical arguments through clear analytical writing.
- Acquire strategies for sustaining meaningful and productive philosophical discussions.

Assessment

Assessment will consist of two papers, two in-class tests, and regular pop-quizzes.

Attendance & Tardiness

Attendance is required. **Missing more than 25% of the classes for whatever reason will result in automatic failure of the course.** Quizzes are given at the start of class. You will not be permitted to take a quiz if you arrive after everyone has turned it in.

Policy Regarding Late Work

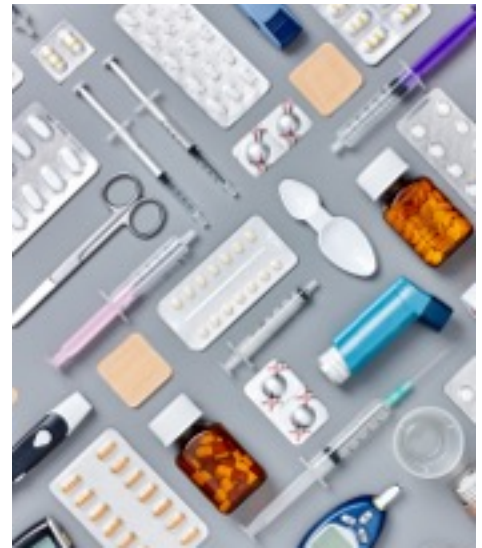
I do not accept late assignments without prior arrangement. Exams may be rescheduled for 1) medical reasons, 2) religious holidays, or 3) school-sanctioned extracurricular activities. I will consider other circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Except in the case of illness, you will need to let me know of your excuse a week in advance of the exam date. In the case of illness, you must have your dean contact me as soon as possible.

Classroom Technology

The use of laptops and cellphones is not allowed in class.

SUMMER 2019
[MTWR] 10:45 - 12:45
Reiss 281

Instructor: Katherine Ward
Email: kw555@georgetown.edu
Office: New North 212
Office Hours: W 1-2



IMPORTANT DATES

7/08	First Day of Class
7/19	Paper 1 Due <i>(Friday 11:59pm)</i>
7/22	Test 1
8/08	Test 2
8/09	Paper 2 Due <i>(Friday 11:59pm)</i>

Assessment		Grade Point Scale	
		A	≥93
Paper 1	20%	A-	≥90
Test 1	20%	B+	≥87
Paper 2	20%	B	≥83
Test 2	20%	B-	≥80
Quizzes	20%	C+	≥77
		C	≥73
		C-	≥70
		D+	≥67
		D	≥60
		F	<60