

PH 300W/PHL 311W
Seminar in Bioethics

Spring 2019
Lattimore 531, F 12:30-3:00

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The Seminar in Bioethics is intended as a capstone experience for bioethics majors, but it is open to anyone who has taken PHL 225 or 228 with permission of the instructor. In a discussion-based seminar format, we will examine the foundations of bioethics and then we will look at book-length treatments of several important issues, chosen by the participants as whole among topics like health care justice, global health justice, stem cell research, transplantation ethics, enhancement technologies, and issues in end-of-life care. The class satisfies the upper-level writing requirement.

Required Texts:

Tom Beauchamp and James Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 7th ed. (Oxford)
Jonathan Glover, *Choosing Children* (Oxford)
Neil Gorsuch, *The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia* (Princeton)
Michael Gross, *Bioethics and Armed Conflict* (MIT)
Timothy Quill and Franklin Miller, *Palliative Care and Ethics* (Oxford)
Jonathan Wolff, *The Human Right to Health* (Norton)

Course Requirements:

Class participation is worth a significant portion of your grade. The class is based on student discussions, not on lectures. You are expected to come to class, and you are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings – if only to ask relevant questions about them. Most of your class participation grade is based on regular, substantive participation in class discussions.

Reflections. Every week, you are expected to write a brief (1-2 page) *reaction paper* to the week's reading, due at 7 p.m. the Thursday night before class. These papers should respond to some specific arguments or position in the readings by explaining why you agree or disagree with it. Please e-mail them to me. Each reflection is worth 10 points.

In addition to the weekly reflections, you should also attend and write reflections about two events in bioethics. Any event listed on the Rochester Bioethics Calendar (<http://www.deesrh.org/bioethics-calendar.html>) will be acceptable. Each of these reflections is worth 5 points. You may also attend and write reflections on up to two more events for extra credit. These papers should be turned in within one week after the event.

Papers. You will write three formal papers for the course. The first two will be done using a tutorial system. I will give you a series of questions about particular texts. You will

choose one topic and write a 6-9 page analytical paper. Class will be cancelled the week tutorials are due; instead, you and another student then meet with me in my office to hand in and discuss and hand in your papers, I will explain the tutorial method in more detail later.

For your final assignment, you will write a 9-12 page paper on a topic of your own choosing. Topics must be approved by me. Each student will write a first draft of the paper that will be graded, and you will review one of those drafts from a peer. The final draft of the paper should then take into account both my comments and those from your classmate.

The course grade is divided into 720 points, apportioned as shown:

First tutorial	Feb 22	120 points
Second tutorial	Mar 28	120
Final assignment		
Draft	Apr 26	60
Peer review	Apr 26	20
Final version	May 10	160
Participation		130
Reflections		110

Academic honesty: The Honor Pledge will be required on the formal papers for the course, including the first draft of your final paper. I expect the work on these assignments to be your own; all quotations and *ideas from others* that are used in your work must be properly cited. The reflections papers are more informal, so I do not expect rigorous citations or the Pledge, but I do expect the work to be your own. This is an ethics course, and I take a particularly dim view of violations of academic honesty. Please consult the College's policy at www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Schedule of Readings:

Jan 18	Beauchamp and Childress, <i>Principles of Biomedical Ethics</i> , chs. 4-5 (pp. 101-201)
Jan 25	Beauchamp and Childress, chs. 6-7 (pp. 202-301) <i>Reflection paper due, Jan 24, 7 pm</i>
Feb 1	Glover, <i>Choosing Children</i> (entire) <i>Reflection paper due, Jan 31, 7 pm</i>
Feb 8	Gross, <i>Bioethics and Armed Conflict</i> , chs. 2-4 (pp. 27-136) <i>Reflection paper due, Feb 7, 7 pm</i>
Feb 15	Gross, chs. 5-7 (pp. 137-244) <i>Reflection paper due, Feb 14, 7 pm</i>
Feb 22	• <i>First tutorial</i>

- Mar 1 Gorsuch, *The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia*, chs. 6-10 (pp. 86-226)
Reflection paper due, Feb 28, 7 pm
- Mar 8 Renee Boss and Nancy Hutton, "Emerging Complexities in Pediatric Palliative Care," in Quill and Miller, *Palliative Care and Ethics*, 47-59
Ronald Epstein and Vikki Entwistle, "Capacity and Shared Decision Making in Serious Illness," in Quill and Miller, 162-83
Robert Truog, "Withholding and Withdrawing Life-Sustaining Treatments," in Quill and Miller, 187-98
Peggy Determeyer and Howard Brody, "Medical Futility: Content in the Context of Care," in Quill and Miller, 199-208
Reflection paper due, Mar 7, 7 pm
- Mar 15 • *Spring break*
- Mar 22 *Visit by Dr. Timothy Quill*
J. Andrew Billings, "Palliative Sedation," in Quill and Miller, 209-30
Emily Rubin and James Bernat, "Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking," in Quill and Miller, 231-46
Timothy Quill and Franklin Miller, "Physician-Assisted Death," in Quill and Miller, 247-65
Linda Ganzini, "Lessons from Legalized Physician-Assisted Death in Oregon and Washington," in Quill and Miller, 266-80
Heleen Weyers, "Physician-Assisted Death in Western Europe: The Legal and Empirical Situation," in Quill and Miller, 281-97
Reflection paper due, Mar 21, 7 pm
- Mar 29 • *Second tutorial*
- Apr 5 Woff, *The Human Right to Health* (entire)
Reflection paper due, Apr 4, 7 pm
- Apr 12 Mary Ann Baily, "Fair Distribution of Screening Costs and Benefits," in Baily and Murray, *Ethics and Newborn Genetic Screening*, 19-57
Scott Grosse, "Cost-Effectiveness as a Criterion for Newborn Screening Policy Decisions," in Baily and Murray, 58-88
Janine De Mars Cody, "An Advocate's Perspective on Newborn Screening Policy," in Baily and Murray, 89-105
Lainie Friedman Ross, "Newborn Screening for Conditions that Do Not Meet the Wilson and Jungner Criteria: The Case of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy," in Baily and Murray 106-24
Reflection paper due, Apr 11, 7 pm

Apr 19

Toby Citrin and Stephen Modell, "Racial/Ethnic Communities and Newborn Screening Policies," in Baily and Murray, 160-77

Virginia Moyer, Ned Calonge, Steven Teutsch, Jeffrey Botkin, on behalf of the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, "What is the Role for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Expanded Newborn Screening?" in Baily and Murray, 195-211

Jeffrey Botkin, "Parental Permission in Research in Newborn Screening," in Baily and Murray, 255-73

Benjamin Wilfond, "Ethical and Policy Implications of Conducting Carrier Testing and Newborn Screening for the Same Condition," in Baily and Murray, 292-311

Reflection paper due, Apr 18, 7 pm

Apr 26

• *First draft of final paper due*

Peer review

Pot luck dinner