

**PH 300W/PHL 311W**  
**Seminar in Bioethics**

Spring 2023  
Lattimore 531, F 12:00-3:00

Richard Dees, Ph.D.  
Office: Lattimore 529  
Hours: Th 11:30-1:30  
and by appointment  
E-mail: richard.dees@rochester.edu

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*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Oxford)  
Michael Gross, *Bioethics and Armed Conflict* (MIT) [available through the Rush Rhees website]  
John Harris, *On Cloning* (Routledge) [available through the Rush Rhees website]  
Geoffrey Miller, ed., *Pediatric Bioethics* (Cambridge)  
Timothy Quill and Franklin Miller, eds., *Palliative Care and Ethics* (Oxford) [available through the Rush Rhees website]  
Bonnie Steinbock, *Life Before Birth*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Oxford)

**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 a.m. each Friday. 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.

*Papers.* There will be three papers in 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 710 points, apportioned as shown:

First tutorial	Feb 17	120 points
Second tutorial	Mar 24	120
Final assignment		
Draft	Apr 21	50
Peer review	Apr 21	20
Final	May 5	150
Participation		140
Reflections		100

### **Schedule of Readings (tentative):**

- Jan 13        Beauchamp and Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, chs. 4-5 (pp. 101-201)
- Jan 20        Beauchamp and Childress, chs. 6-7 (pp 202-301)  
*Reflection paper 1 due, 7 a.m. January 20*
- Jan 27        Gross, *Bioethics and Armed Conflict*, chs. 2-4 (pp. 27-136)  
*Reflection paper 2 due, 7 a.m. January 27*
- Feb 3         Gross, chs. 5-7 (pp. 137-244)  
*Reflection paper 3 due, 7 a.m. February 3*
- Feb 10        Bonnie Steinbock, *Life Before Birth*, chs 1-2 (1-107)  
*Reflection paper 4 due, 7 a.m. February 10*
- Feb 17        • *First tutorials (no regular class)*
- Feb 24        *Visit from Bonnie Steinbock, Class on Zoom*  
Steinbock, *Life Before Birth*, chs. 3, 5 (108-54, 199-254)  
*Questions for Prof. Steinbock (as part of Reflection paper 5) due, 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22*
- Mar 3         John Harris, *On Cloning* (entire)  
*Reflection paper 6 due, 7 a.m., March 3*
- Mar 10        *Spring break*
- Mar 17        Renee Boss and Nancy Hutton, “Emerging Complexities in Pediatric Palliative Care,” in Tim Quill and Franklin 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 7 due, 7 a.m. March 17*

Mar 24 • *Second tutorials (no regular class)*

Mar 31 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 8 due, 7 a.m. March 31*

Apr 7 Lawrence McCullough, "Contributions of Ethical Theory to Pediatric Ethics: Pediatricians and Parents as Co-fiduciaries of Pediatric Patients," in Miller, 11-21  
Loretta Koppelman, "Using Best-Interest Standard in Treatment Decisions for Young Children," in Miller, 22-37  
Christine Harrison, "Truth-Telling in Pediatrics: What They Don't Know Might Hurt Them." in Miller, 73-86  
Lainie Friedman Ross, "Newborn Screening," in Miller, 111-24  
Kimberly Quaid, "Presymptomatic Genetic Testing in Children," in Miller 125-40  
*Reflection paper 9 due, 7 a.m. April 7*  
*Deadline for approval of final paper topic, 12 noon, April 7*

Apr 14 Geoffrey Miller, "Extreme Prematurity: Truth and Justice," in Miller, 141-48  
Alice Dreger and David Sandberg, "Disorders of Sex Development," in Miller, 149-63  
Eva Feder Kittay, "Rationality, Personhood, and Peter Singer on the Fate of Severely-Impaired Children," in Miller, 165-72  
Paul Lombardo, "The Ethics of Controlling Reproduction in a Population with Mental Disabilities," in Miller, 173-85  
Joel Frader and Erin Flanagan-Khygis, "Ethics and Immunization," in Miller, 219-30.  
*Reflection paper 10 due, 7 a.m. April 14*

Apr 21 • *First draft of final paper due, 12 noon April 21*  
*Peer reviews due, end of class, April 21*

May 5 • *Final draft of final paper due, 5 p.m., May 5*