

PHIL 131C: Medical Ethics
Fall Quarter, 2023
MW 9:30a to 10:50a in SST 220B

Course Description:

This course will involve analysis of moral issues concerning health care.

Instructor Information:

Rachel K Cooper

Email Address: rkcooper@uci.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 12-2 in HIB 69 and by appointment on Zoom

Texts:

Bioethics: An Anthology, 4th Edition Udo Schüklenk (Editor), Peter Singer (Editor). ISBN: 978-1-119-63511-6

Evaluation:

10% (50 points): Attendance and Participation

20% (100 points): Weekly Reading Responses

35% (175 points): Paper 1

35% (175 points): Paper 2

Weekly Reading Reflection:

Each week, you will be asked to write a short but substantive reflection on one or more of the readings for that week. A substantive reflection is generally >100 words. It may be a summary of the reading but should include some original thought. It may be a question but should also demonstrate some understanding of the reading. Reflections are submitted via Canvas.

Papers:

Topics TBD

Papers involve thinking critically about a topic covered in our class. Papers must be both explanatory and critical. They should be about 3-5 pages (double spaced, 12-point font). They should be submitted via Canvas.

Paper 1 due: Wednesday November 1 at midnight

Paper 2 due: Wednesday December 13 at midnight

Grading Scale:

Your final grade will be calculated by points earned out of the 500 total possible points. The standard UCI grading scale, listed below) will be used (based on percentage of points out of 500 earned and rounding up from .5 and down below that):

A+ ≥ 96.5 > A ≥ 93.5 > A- ≥ 90 > B+ ≥ 86.5 > B ≥ 83.5 > B- ≥ 80 > C+ ≥ 76.5 > C ≥ 73.5 > C- ≥ 70 > D+ ≥ 66.5 > D ≥ 63.5 > D- ≥ 60 > F

Class Schedule:

❖ Week One (Oct 2 and Oct 4):

➤ Abortion

- “A Defense of Abortion,” Judith Jarvis Thomson

❖ Week Two (Oct 9 and Oct 11):

➤ Issues in Reproduction

- “Rights, Interests, and Possible People,” Derek Parfit
- “Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortion: A Challenge to Practice and Policy,” Adrienne Asch

❖ Week Three (Oct 16 and Oct 18):

➤ Genetic Manipulation

- “The Moral Significance of the Therapy-Enhancement Distinction,” David B. Resnik
- “In Defense of Post Human Dignity,” Nick Bostrom

❖ Week Four (Oct 23 and Oct 25):

➤ Life and Death Issues

- “Active and Passive Euthanasia,” James Rachels

❖ Week Five (Oct 30 and Nov 1):

➤ Life and Death Issues Continued

- “The Challenge of Brain Death for the Sanctity of Life Ethic,” Peter Singer
- “Life Past Reason,” Ronald Dworkin

****Paper 1 due Wednesday Nov 1 at midnight****

❖ Week Six (Nov 6 and Nov 8):

➤ Ethical Issues in the Practice of Healthcare

- “Transgender Children and the Right to Transition: Medical Ethics When Parents Mean Well But Cause Harm,” Maura Priest

❖ Week Seven (Nov 13 and Nov 15):

➤ Disability

- “Valuing Disability, Causing Disability,” Elizabeth Barnes

❖ Week Eight (Nov 20 and Nov 22):

➤ **Neuroethics**

- “Neuroethics: Ethics and the Sciences of Mind,” Neil Levy
- “Engineering Love,” Julian Savulescu and Anders Sandberg

❖ **Week Nine (Nov 27 and Nov 29):**

➤ **Epistemic Injustice in Healthcare**

- Excerpt from *Epistemic Injustice* by Miranda Fricker

❖ **Week Ten (Dec 4 and Dec 6):**

➤ **Epistemic Injustice in Healthcare Continued**

- “Epistemic Injustice in Healthcare: A Philosophical Analysis,” Havi Carel and Ian James Kidd

****Paper 2 due Wednesday December 13 at midnight****