

Phi 320 / BIO 312: Bioethics

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Saint

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To arrange a video chat with me: [sign up for an available slot on my Google Calendar](#). If none of the available slots work for you, send me an e-mail, and we'll work out an alternative. At the time of the scheduled meeting, use [this link to access](#) my Zoom meeting space.

Course Description:

Bioethics is the study of ethical issues related to biology. This course provides an introduction to bioethics, with special focus on medical ethics. Topics to be covered may include: confidentiality, truth-telling, the role of a doctor, the role of a nurse, the ethics of abortion, the ethics of doctor-assisted suicide, and the permissibility of selling one's own organs. What connects all these topics together are this underlying question: how should we treat one another and our bodies, especially in moments of great need?

No background in ethical theory, in general, or bioethics, in particular, is expected.

Required Texts:

There is no required text for this course. All readings will be made available through Canvas.

Required Technology:

This course requires a computer with Internet access and the following:

Web browsers (Chrome, Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari)

Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)

Adobe Flash Player (free)

Learning Programming Used:

This course makes use of three applications: Canvas, Yellowdig, and Digication. Yellowdig and Digication can be accessed through the Canvas site for the course. It is your responsibility to make sure that you can access all three applications. If you cannot do so, contact the ASU Help Desk for assistance.

Help

For technical support, use the Help icon in the black global navigation menu in your Canvas course or call the ASU Help Desk at +1-(855) 278-5080. Representatives are available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Student Learning Outcomes:

It is expected and desired that students will leave this course with a wide body of knowledge related to ethical theory and its application to specific bioethical topics. Students will be able to develop their philosophic reasoning skills, especially their abilities related to reading complex argumentative prose, interpreting and evaluating philosophic argument, applying abstract theory to concrete cases, and developing and expressing philosophic arguments.

Grade Elements:

There are 500 points possible in this course from the grade categories:

Case Analysis Discussions (11 total, each worth 35 points)	275 points total	55% of final grade
Yellowdig Participation	100 points total	20% of final grade
Code of Ethics Review	100 points total	20% of final grade
Syllabus Quiz	10 points total	.02% of final grade
Module 1 Brandt Activity	15 points total	.03% of final grade
Study Quizzes	0 points total	0% of final grade

Case Analysis Discussions (CADs): these are discussion board assignments, and there is one corresponding to each required reading covered in Modules 2 - 6. The purpose of each CAD is to strengthen and deepen our understanding of the material being studied in class. Grading is rigorous. Additional instructions will be provided in Canvas; make sure you read them carefully, because they are complex!

Yellowdig Participation: All course discussion, outside of the CADs, will take place in Yellowdig. Go there to ask questions about the course, help each other with understanding the material, raise potential objections or concerns about different theories, show how these theories can be applied to additional cases, make connections to current events, etc. All participation in Yellowdig is graded equally.

While I will provide suggestions about what to discuss on Yellowdig, there are no precise discussion prompts for you to follow. Additionally, there are no specific deadlines for your Yellowdig participation. It is up to you to decide what to say to your classmates and when. It is an open forum, and I encourage you to think creatively about how Yellowdig discussions can improve your learning experience in this course!

You can receive up to 20 points in Yellowdig each week, and there are a total of 100 points possible available from Yellowdig participation. Note, this means that you do not have to receive 20 points per week to get a perfect score. Additionally, this means that you *must* participate in Yellowdig regularly throughout the term in order to get a perfect score. If you wait until the end of the term, you will not be able to get full credit!

Thoughtful, careful, respectful, and helpful participation is expected in Yellowdig. Read through this [PDF entitled "Discussion Board Guidelines"](#) for expectations for participation (disregard section 3). If you post something to Yellowdig that does not meet my standards for acceptable participation, I will delete it, and you will not receive credit for it. If your participation in Yellowdig regularly fails to interact meaningfully with the material being studied, does not provide valuable contributions to discussion, or does not meet minimal grammatical / spelling standards, then you will not receive credit for your problematic contributions. In both cases, I will contact you via e-mail to discuss the issue.

Code of Ethics Review: This takes the place of a final paper. For this assignment, you will be tasked with writing a letter to a professional association of your choosing in which you suggest a revision to that organization's code of ethics. (There is no expectation that you actually *send* this letter, but you are welcome to do so.) More information will be provided in Canvas.

Syllabus Quiz: You will not be able to access the rest of the class until you take the syllabus quiz and receive a perfect score.

Module 1 Brandt Activity: This is an activity, intended to acquaint (or reacquaint) you to ethical theories and the process of interpreting philosophic texts. It is listed as a 'quiz' in Canvas, but it is not a quiz.

Study Quizzes: There will occasionally be study quizzes provided, just to help you check your understanding of the material. These do not affect your final grade. They are only for practice.

Grade Scale:

490 - 500	98 – 100 %	A+
465 - 489	93 – 97 %	A
450 - 464	90 – 92 %	A-
435 - 449	87 – 89 %	B+
415 - 434	83 – 86 %	B
400 - 414	80 – 82 %	B-
385 - 399	77 – 79 %	C+
350 - 384	70 – 76%	C
300 - 349	60 – 69 %	D
0 – 299	0 – 59 %	E, EN, or EU

Grades are not rounded. If you receive 449 points total, your final score is a B+. If you receive 449.99 points total, your final score is still a B+.

Email and Internet:

ASU email is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon emails/announcements within 24 hours. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account and the instructor strongly recommends that you have not disabled the Canvas option of receiving the announcements via email.

I try to respond to e-mails quickly during business hours. If you do not receive a reply within 48 hours, please assume I did not see it and **send your e-mail again**. Make sure I see what you need me to see!

Course Time Commitment:

This three-credit course requires approximately 135 hours of work. Please expect to spend around 18 hours each week preparing for and actively participating in this course.

Course Difficulty:

This is a challenging course, and grading is rigorous.

Late Policy:

All deadlines listed in Canvas are Arizona Time.

There is a 24-hour grace period on all assignments. This means that you can turn work in up to 24 hours after the listed due date without penalty. Example: if the due date listed in Canvas for an assignment is "Tuesday, March 15," then that assignment can be turned in without late penalty until 11:59pm on Wednesday, March 16.

Work turned in after the grace period is subject to a penalty of 10% for each day after the listed due date. This means that work turned in 10 days or more after the listed due date automatically receives a grade of 0.

Absolutely no work for the course will be accepted after 11:59pm on the final day of class.

Missed opportunities to gain points in Yellowdig cannot be made up at any point during the term.

Much of your work in this class is collaborative: your classmates need you to complete your work, so that they can complete theirs. Don't let them down!

Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise prearranged with your instructor, **MUST** be submitted via the associated assignment submission feature in Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email.

Drop and Add Dates/Withdrawals

This course adheres to a compressed schedule and may be part of a sequenced program, therefore, there is a limited timeline to [drop or add the course](#). Consult with your advisor and notify your instructor to add or drop this course. If you are considering a withdrawal, review the following ASU policies: [Withdrawal from Classes](#), [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal](#), and a [Grade of Incomplete](#).

Grade Appeals

Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute is not resolved with the instructor, the student may appeal to the department chair per the [University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades](#).

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students in any materials intended to be used for an academic evaluation, including, but not limited to: all examinations, papers, presentations, laboratory work, academic transactions and records.

Copyrighted Materials

All content in this course, including but not limited to video lectures, presentations, assignments, discussions, quizzes and exams, is protected by copyright and may not be shared, uploaded, sold, or distributed. Students must refrain from uploading, submitting or distributing any course content or material to any website or to any persons for any reason unless given written permission by the copyright holder. Violations of copyright may result in the sanctions listed below.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

[Plagiarism](#) is strictly prohibited. Students must refrain from obtaining, uploading or submitting material that is not the student's original work to any course assignment or discussion used in this course or any other course unless the students first comply with all applicable citation guidelines and copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected plagiarism and copyright infringement and impose sanctions as listed below.

Academic dishonesty includes any act of academic deceit, including but not limited to possessing, reviewing, buying, selling, obtaining, posting on a site accessible to others, reviewing materials from a site accessible to others, or using, without appropriate authorization, any materials intended to be used for an academic evaluation.

Prohibition of Distributing or Selling Class Notes

Students may not share outside the class, upload, sell, or distribute course content or notes taken during the course. In accordance with [ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services](#), written permission must be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of notes. Notes must have the notetaker's name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date.

Sanctions for Academic Integrity Violations

Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal from ASU. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

Do note, I understand that academic dishonesty is often a result of desperation: the assignment is confusing, or the student doesn't know how to complete it. People don't want to cheat, but they resort to it when they don't know how else to succeed. This means that, if you start feeling motivated to cheat in this class, you should reach out to me for help. Sometimes, something as simple as having the instructions clarified for you is all it takes to help you feel empowered to succeed on your own merits. So, make sure you reach out to me the moment you start feeling like you need help. All you have to do is send me an e-mail that says, "I don't know how to complete [assignment]," and we can go from there. Let me help you succeed!

Student Conduct and Appropriate Behavior

Additionally, required behavior standards are listed in the [Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedures](#), [Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications policy](#), [SSM 104-02](#) policy against threatening behavior, per the *Student Services Manual*, "Handling Disruptive, Threatening, or Violent Individuals on Campus", and outlined by the [Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#). Anyone in violation of these policies is subject to sanctions.

[Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference](#) by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process per [Instructor Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#).

Netiquette --appropriate online behavior-- is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion posts may be deleted by the instructor.

If you deem content shared by an instructor or student offensive, bring it to the attention of the instructor or, alternatively, to the unit chair or director.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts [incident reports](#) from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Title VII and Title IX)

Policy on Discrimination

Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests.

Title VII

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a federal law that provides that no person be discriminated against based on certain specified characteristics: sex, race, color, national origin and religion, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information. ASU expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status.

Inappropriate conduct need not rise to the level of a violation of federal or state law to constitute a violation of this policy and to warrant disciplinary action/sanctions.

Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited.

Reporting Title VII and IX Violations

Your instructor is a mandated reporter and therefore obligated to report any information regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence.

An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <http://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. The feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available.

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended (ADAAA) of 2008, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Disability Resource Center (DRC) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

[Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and accommodations.](#) Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. Students who believe they have a current and essential need for disability accommodations are [responsible for requesting accommodations and providing qualifying documentation](#) to the DRC. Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Qualified students who wish to request accommodation for a disability should contact the DRC by going to <https://eooss.asu.edu/drc>, calling (480) 965-1234 or emailing DRC@asu.edu. To speak with a specific office, please use the following information:

ASU Online and Downtown Phoenix Campus

University Center Building, Suite 160

602-496-4321 (Voice)

Polytechnic Campus

480-727-1165 (Voice)

West Campus

University Center Building (UCB), Room 130

602-543-8145 (Voice)

Tempe Campus

480-965-1234 (Voice)

Syllabus Disclaimer:

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Once Canvas is open for viewing, the information on Canvas should be considered definitive. Where there is a difference, Canvas postings will supersede anything in the initial syllabus. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.