

**\*\*Disclaimer\*\***

This syllabus is to be used as a guideline only. The information provided is a summary of topics to be covered in the class. Information contained in this document such as assignments, grading scales, due dates, office hours, required books and materials may be from a previous semester and are subject to change. Please refer to your instructor for the most recent version of the syllabus.

## Bioethics Course Syllabus

*Please note that this is a draft syllabus. It is designed to give students an overall view of the course to see if it fits with their needs and interests. Course policies are subject to change. The final, official syllabus will be available to registered students on the Canvas site by the first day of class.*

### Faculty

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### Textbook

There are no required textbooks for the course. All materials will be available through Canvas.

### Course Overview

The goal of this course is to equip students with skills that will empower them to present, understand, and respond to arguments about how health care professionals and biomedical researchers should interact with patients and research subjects. To that end, we will:

- Summarize and apply a small set of ethical theories that shed light on issues in biomedical ethics.
- Read and analyze articles that discuss the nature and purpose of medicine and/or biological research.
- Read articles that explain why certain biomedical practices are controversial and summarize key difficulties for each side in the controversy.
- Read and analyze articles that argue for specific claims about how people should behave in the relevant situations.
- Evaluate the arguments contained in these articles, along with other sources.

### Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Summarize and apply several key ethical theories.
- Summarize key theories about the nature and purpose of medicine and identifies implications about how doctors should interact with patients.
- Comprehend and explain the background issues and main positions concerning practical questions about how doctors and/or medical researchers should interact with patients and research subjects.
- Analyze, discuss, and respond to ethical arguments.

## Coursework

### *Regular Assignments*

This course will consist of a number of units. In each unit, we will examine one method for analyzing ethical arguments and apply it to a particular issue. Students will accomplish this goal through the following tasks:

1. Read articles that describe background issues about specific problems in medicine.
2. Read articles that argue for one or another position on a medical issue.
3. Read articles that analyze a general ethical theory.
4. Watch a series of lectures related to the theory and the issues.
5. Participate in online-discussions about the merits and defects of the arguments from the articles.
6. Participate in online discussions about how to apply the theory to the issues.
7. Take one or more 5-minute online reading quizzes.

### *Semester Assignments*

Over the course of the semester students will take two examinations:

1. A midterm (at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week.)
2. A final exam (not cumulative)

Students will also have the *option* of writing a final paper. The paper is not extra credit. It is intended as both a learning opportunity and a way to reduce the impact of any one test or assignment on the final grade for the course.

## Further Questions

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor at the above e-mail address. I hope that you will decide to take my class and I look forward to meeting you when the semester begins.

*(See the following pages for sample reading and assignment schedules.)*

## Reading Schedule

ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATE
<b>Module 1: Consequentialism and Confidentiality</b>	
Reading: Nathanson, S. "Act and Rule Utilitarianism"	Week 1, Wednesday
Reading: Kipnis, Kenneth. 2006. "A Defense of Unqualified Medical Confidentiality"	Week 1, Wednesday
Reading: Klitzman, Robert. 2006. "Qualifying Confidentiality: Historical and Empirical Issues and Facts"	Week 1, Wednesday
Case Study: "An Invitation to Dinner"	Week 1, Wednesday
Case Study: Lagay, Faith. 2000. Being the "Company Doctor"	Week 1, Wednesday
Case Study: Mytton, O. 2005. "Should doctors talk to relatives without a competent patient's consent?"	Week 1, Wednesday
<b>Module 2: Kantianism and Informed Consent</b>	
Reading: Fieser, James. "Ethics", part b.	Week 2, Wednesday
Reading: Terry, Peter B. 2007. "Informed Consent in Clinical Medicine."	Week 2, Wednesday
Reading: Emanuel, et al. "Four models of the physician-patient relationship."	Week 2, Wednesday
Case Study: Engel, "When the Physician's Medical Judgment is Rejected".	Week 2, Wednesday
Case Study: Long and Shuman, "Could Good Care Mean Withholding Information from Patients?"	Week 2, Wednesday
(Optional) Reading: Jankowiak, "Kant"	Week 2, Wednesday
<b>Module 3: Natural Law and the Purpose of Medicine</b>	
Reading: Maritain, "The Rights of the Person"	Week 3, Wednesday
Reading: Kass, "Regarding the End of Medicine and the Pursuit of Health"	Week 3, Wednesday
Reading: Miller, et al, "Cosmetic Surgery and the Internal Morality of Medicine"	Week 3, Wednesday
Case Study: Carniol and Carniol, "The 'Mommy Makeover Package'"	Week 3, Wednesday
Case Study: Cantor, Julie D, "Cosmetic Surgery: When Fifty Doesn't Feel Fabulous"	Week 3, Wednesday
(Optional) Reading: Miller and Brody, "The Internal Morality of Medicine: An Evolutionary Perspective"	Week 3, Wednesday

<b>Module 4: Research Ethics</b>	
Reading: Emanuel and Grady, "What makes clinical research ethical?"	Week 4, Wednesday
Reading: Karigan, "Ethics in Clinical Research: The Nursing Perspective"	Week 4, Wednesday
Case Study: Iltis, "Fairness in Subject Selection: Comparing Suburban and Inner-City Populations"	Week 4, Wednesday
Case Study: Anderson, "Differing Perceptions of Risks and Benefits"	Week 4, Wednesday
Case Study: Whitbeck, "The Patient Wants to Withdraw"	Week 4, Wednesday
<b>Module 5: Four Principles and Truth-Telling</b>	
Reading: Gillon, "Medical ethics: four principles plus attention to scope"	Week 5, Wednesday
Reading: Burack, "Truth-Telling"	Week 5, Wednesday
Case Study: Veatch, et al. "Case 45: Please Don't Tell me I'm Blind"	Week 5, Wednesday
Case Study: Veatch, et al. "Case 6-5: Overriding Patient Autonomy: Hiding the Side Effects of Chemotherapy"	Week 5, Wednesday
<b>Module 6: Substitute Decision-Making for Adults and Children</b>	
Reading: Lazar, "Bioethics for clinicians: 5. Substitute decision-making."	Week 6, Wednesday
Reading: "Bioethics for clinicians: 9. Involving children in medical decisions."	Week 6, Wednesday
Case Study: "Case Study #22: Assumed Consent of an Unconscious Patient"	Week 6, Wednesday
Case Study: Fadiman, "Government Property"	Week 6, Wednesday
<b>Module 7: Voluntary Active Euthanasia</b>	
Reading: Brock, "Voluntary Active Euthanasia"	Week 7, Wednesday
Reading: Callahan, "When Self-Determination Runs Amok"	Week 7, Wednesday
Reading: Kass, "I Will Give no Deadly Drug: Why Doctors Must Not Kill"	Week 7, Wednesday
Case Study: Corelli and Harris, "Mercy on trial"	Week 7, Wednesday
Case Study: Burleigh, "Children's Euthanasia and 'Aktion T-4'"	Week 7, Wednesday
Case Study: Crane, "Aidan's Gift"	Week 7, Wednesday
Case Study: Will, "Golly, What Did Jon Do?"	Week 7, Wednesday

## Assignment Schedule

ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATE
<b>Module 0: Introduction to Bioethics</b>	
Personal Introduction – Initial Post	Week 1, Monday
Course Quiz	Week 1, Tuesday
Personal Introduction – Reply	Week 1, Tuesday
<b>Module 1: Consequentialism and Confidentiality</b>	
Module 1 Reading Quiz	Week 1, Wednesday
Module 1 First Discussion Post	Week 1, Wednesday
Module 1 Second Discussion Post	Week 1, Sunday
<b>Module 2: Kantianism and Informed Consent</b>	
Module 2 Reading Quiz	Week 2, Wednesday
Module 2 First Discussion Post	Week 2, Wednesday
Module 2 Second Discussion Post	Week 2, Sunday
<b>Module 3: Natural Law and the Purpose of Medicine</b>	
Module 3 Reading Quiz	Week 3, Wednesday
Module 3 First Discussion Post	Week 3, Wednesday
Midterm	Week 3, Saturday – Week 3, Sunday
<b>Module 4: Research Ethics</b>	
(Optional) Final Paper Outline	Week 4, Monday
Module 4 Reading Quiz	Week 4, Wednesday
Module 4 First Discussion Post	Week 4, Wednesday
Module 4 Second Discussion Post	Week 4, Sunday
<b>Module 5: Four Principles and Truth-Telling</b>	
Module 5 Reading Quiz	Week 5, Wednesday
Module 5 First Discussion Post	Week 5, Wednesday
Module 5 Second Discussion Post	Week 5, Sunday

<b>Module 6: Substitute Decision-Making for Adults and Children</b>	
(Optional) Final Paper Rough Draft	Week 6, Monday
Module 6 Reading Quiz	Week 6, Wednesday
Module 6 First Discussion Post	Week 6, Wednesday
Module 6 Second Discussion Post	Week 6, Sunday
<b>Module 7: Voluntary Active Euthanasia</b>	
(Optional) Final Paper	Week 7, Monday
Module 7 Reading Quiz	Week 7, Wednesday
Module 7 First Discussion Post	Week 7, Wednesday
Final Examination	Week 7, Friday – Week 7, Saturday
Module 7 Second Discussion Post	Week 7, Sunday