

## Bioethics

Syracuse University - REL 552/PHI594  
 LeMoyne College- CCM 408 / 508  
 Health Science Center – CCFM 1413, CCFM 413, CCFM 6413

Instructor: Dr. Ernest Wallwork  
 Department of Religion  
 506 Hall of Languages; 443-5720  
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 Office hours: by appointment

Spring, 2016  
 Wednesday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.  
 4507 Setnor SUNY Health Science Center  
 TA: Sam Castleberry  
 Office hours: Weds, 2:30-4:30, 3rd floor  
 Setnor lounge. TA email: [sbcastle@syr.edu](mailto:sbcastle@syr.edu)

### Objectives:

This course is intended to develop your understanding of and appreciation for the complexities of ethical problems related to the health professions and the contribution of philosophical reflection to moral decision-making in this important area.

The course is also intended to provide an opportunity for you to improve your written and verbal communication skills.

### Textbooks:

Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics, 7th edition. NY: Oxford University Press. (BC)

Ronald Munson, Outcome Uncertain. Belmont, CA:Wadsworth/Thomson. (OU)

### Requirements:

**Attendance/Participation** Critical discussion is essential to this course. You are expected to attend every class meeting. Absences will be excused only with advanced notice and written, official documentation of illness or emergency. Unexcused absences will lower your final grade. Students are expected to contribute to the seminar discussions. It is important that you read the assignments carefully before class and that you come prepared to discuss the readings.

**Academic courtesy.** All students are expected to follow simple rules of academic courtesy to fellow students and instructors. Please come to class on time to avoid disrupting the class. Once class begins, you must refrain from personal conversations. Turn off and put away all cell phones and MP3 players. Refrain from using computers for any non-course related activities. Please avoid premature preparations to leave class; your instructor will let you know when class is over. Text messaging or surfing the web during class, besides being rude, dilutes class attention and participation and, for this reason, will result in being asked to leave class for the day and may lower your final grade.

**Weekly Reflection Papers/Participation Grade (30%).** Students are expected 1) to write several paragraphs on the reading assignments that are to be posted to the Blackboard discussion beforehand or brought to class, and 2) to turn in a hard copy of the reflection paper before leaving class on that day. These written responses to the readings will constitute an important portion of your participation grade. From time to time, you will be asked to share your reflections with the class. Your reflection papers should state in a couple of sentences or a short paragraph an important ethical issue/argument in the week's reading. The rest of your reflection paper should discuss critically the treatment of the issue/argument and your agreement/disagreement with how the author(s) handle it. The response papers should be about 1-1 1/2 pages long, double-spaced, with regular margins and font. Late response papers will not be accepted.

**Short Take Home Exam (25%).** A short paper (4 pages double-spaced) on an assigned case will be required of all students. The topic will be assigned on **Feb 24** and it will be due on **March 9**. The aim of this exam/paper is to demonstrate your developing skills in ethical analysis and argumentation..

**Final Term Paper (45%):** Each student will be expected to select a topic of interest in the area of ethics and the health professions. Topics must be submitted for approval in advance by the instructor by **March 2**. Satisfactory completion of a 12-15 page research paper (20 pages for graduate students) is required. An imaginative presentation of your research project to the class that stimulates bioethical reflection will take place at the end of the course **on April 20 or 27**. Your presentation may include: a case for discussion, a video project, a debate, a game, a performance or graphic arts project, a mock trial or a summary and discussion of your research. You should choose a form of presentation that creatively conveys what you want to communicate. The presentation is worth 20% of your final grade; the final paper another 25%. A hardcopy of the final paper must be delivered to 501 Hall of Languages, Syracuse University, by **May 3**.

**Grades:** Students will be graded on the basis of the quality of their (1) participation in the seminar discussions, in-class oral assignments and quizzes, and response papers (30%); (2) the quality of the mid-term case write-up (25%); (3) in-class research presentation (20%) and final draft of the research paper (25%). The standard of assessment will vary in accordance with the educational background and level of the individual student.

## **Class Schedule and Reading Assignments**

January 20	<p><b>Introduction to Bioethics</b></p> <p>--Discussion of Cases --Introduction to Ethical Theory</p>
January 27	<p><b>Ethical Reflection</b></p> <p>BC, chs. 1-2 (pp.1-56)</p>
February 3	<p><b>Ethical Theory</b></p> <p>OU, Part 5, pp. 357-400; 410-422. Immanuel Kant, "Goodwill, Duty and the Categorical Imperative" (Blackboard [Bb] &amp; SUNY library online reserve) J. Bentham, "Quantitative Utilitarianism" (Bb &amp; SUNY library online reserve)</p>
February 10	<p><b>Autonomy: Refusing Treatment</b> <b>(film: "Please Let Me Die")</b></p> <p>BC, ch.4, pp. 101-141</p>
February 17	<p><b>Nonmaleficence: Professional Responsibilities and Physician Assisted Suicide</b> <b>(film: "Dax's Case")</b></p> <p>BC, ch. 5, 150-193.</p>
February 24	<p><b>Beneficence, Paternalism and Informed Consent</b></p> <p>BC, ch.6, 202-241</p> <p><b>Take-home Exam Distribution</b></p>
March 2	<p><b>Truth-telling and Confidentiality</b> <b>(film: "The DNR Dilemma")</b></p> <p>BC, Ch. 8, pp. 302-331</p> <p><b>Final Research Paper Topics Due</b></p>

- March 9            **Allowing to Die/Euthanasia**  
**(film: “No Heroic Measures”)**
- OU. Ch. 10, pp. 331-340.
- Mid-term Home Exam due**
- March 16           **SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS**
- March 23           **Research with Human Subjects & Animals**  
**(film: “Balancing Society’s Mandates”)**
- BC, ch. 7, 331-340
- OU, Ch. 1, pp. 3-52.
- March 30           **Abortion**
- OU, Ch. 9, pp. 295-325.
- April 6            **New Reproductive Technologies**
- OU, Ch. 6, pp. 191-234.
- April 13           **Imperiled Newborns**  
**(film: “Better Off Dead”)**
- Munson, Ronald (ed), Intervention and Reflection, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition,  
“Impaired Infants and Medical Futility,” ch.2, 136—169.  
(Bb and SUNY online reserve)
- April 20           **Justice: Microallocation and Macroallocation**
- BC, ch. 7, 249-293
- Presentation of Student Papers**
- April 27           **Presentation of Student Papers** [Last class]
- May 3            **Final Papers Due**

**Official Policies:**

**Academic Integrity:** The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The Policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/>.

**Religious Observances:** This is a reminder that students must notify instructors by the end of the second week of classes when they will be observing their religious holiday(s). In fall and spring semesters, students fill out their notification forms online.

**Disability Statement:** Students who may need academic accommodations due to a disability are encouraged to discuss their needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. In order to obtain authorized accommodations, students should be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309 (315) 443-4498 and have an updated accommodation letter for the instructor. Accommodation and related support services such as exam administration are not provided retroactively and must be requested in advance. For more information about services and policy, visit the Office of Disability Services website at <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/> or contact the office at the addresses below:

Syracuse University  
Office of Disability Services  
804 University Avenue Room 309  
Syracuse, NY 13244-2330

Phone: (315) 443-4498  
TDD: (315) 443-1371