

## Bioethics

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

Instructor: Dr. Ernest Wallwork  
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Spring, 2010  
Wednesday, 6:45-9:45 p.m.  
4507 Setnor SUNY Health Science Center  
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TA email: [threeder@syr.edu](mailto:threeder@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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Text messaging or surfing the web during class, besides being rude, dilutes class attention and participation and, for this reason, will lower your final grade.

**Weekly Reflection Papers/Participation Grade (30%)**. Students are expected either to contribute several paragraphs on the reading assignments weekly to the Blackboard Discussion Forum or to turn in a hard copy of a several paragraph reflection paper on the reading assignment for that day. These written responses, which will be brought to class, will constitute a significant portion of your participation grade. From time to time, you will be asked to share your reflections with the class or the working group to which

you are assigned. Late responses will not be accepted. Pop quizzes may be given if the discussion indicates that the reading assignment has not been read with sufficient care. These pop quizzes will be factored into your final participation grade. Your responses should state in a couple of sentences or a short paragraph an important ethical issue/argument in that week's reading. The rest of your response 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.. You must contribute to the online Discussion Forum before class or hand in a hard copy of your response before you leave the classroom on the day it is due. Late response papers or Blackboard contributions 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 17** and it will be due on **March 3**. 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 **February 24**. 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 21or 28**. Your presentation may include: a case for discussion, a video project, a debate, 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%; the final paper another 25%. The final paper is **due on April 28**.

**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 and final draft of the research paper (45%). The standard of assessment will vary in accordance with the educational background of the individual student.

### **Class Schedule and Reading Assignments**

January 13	<b>Introduction to Bioethics</b>
January 20	<b>Ethical Reflection</b> --Discussion of Cases --Introduction to Ethical Theory  BC, chs. 1-2 (pp.1-57)

January 27	<b>Ethical Theory</b>  BC, Ch. 9 (333-363) [Graduate students should also read ch. 10] Immanuel Kant, “Goodwill, Duty and the Categorical Imperative” (Blackboard [Bb] & SUNY library online reserve) J. Bentham, “Quantitative Utilitarianism” (Bb & SUNY library online reserve)
February 3	<b>Autonomy: Refusing Treatment</b> <b>(film: “Please Let Me Die”)</b>  BC, ch.4, pp.99-140
February 10	<b>Nonmaleficence: Professional Responsibilities and Physician Assisted Suicide</b> <b>(film: “Dax’s Case”)</b>  BC, ch. 5, 149-190.
February 17	<b>Beneficence, Paternalism and Informed Consent</b>  BC, ch.6, 197-233  <b>Take-home Exam Distribution</b>
February 24	<b>Truth-telling and Confidentiality</b> <b>(film: “The DNR Dilemma”)</b>  BC, Ch. 8, pp. 288-317  <b>Final Research Paper Topics Due</b>
March 3	<b>Allowing to Die/Euthanasia</b> <b>(film: “No Heroic Measures”)</b>  OU. Ch. 10, pp. 326-356.  <b>Mid-term Home Exam due</b>

- March 10                    **SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS**
- March 17                    **Research with Human Subjects & Animals**  
**(film: “Balancing Society’s Mandates”)**  
  
BC, ch. 7, 317-322  
  
OU, Ch. 1, pp. 3-52.
- March 24                    **Abortion**  
  
OU, Ch. 9, pp. 295-325.
- March 31                    **New Reproductive Technologies**  
  
OU, Ch. 6, pp. 191-234.
- April 7                      **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 14                    **Justice: Microallocation and Macroallocation**  
  
BC, ch. 6, 225-272  
  
**Presentation of Student Papers**
- April 21                    **Presentation of Student Papers** [Last class]
- April 28                    **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/>.

**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  
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