



Philosophy 165: Bioethics

M,W,F 1:00 - 1:50

Professor: Jonathan Anomaly

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Office: Caldwell 208-a; Office Hours: M,W,F 2-3:00

Course description

The goal of this class is to explore moral issues that arise in the context of medicine. These include whether abortion or euthanasia are justifiable, and whether we should manipulate our genes to improve ourselves and our children.

Required book

All readings will be available on Sakai.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Any more than three unexcused absences will lower your grade.

Plagiarism

Anyone caught cheating will be referred to the honor council. Please follow the Duke honor code.

Requirements

Your grade will be determined by three take-home exams, each worth one third of your grade, and each involving about 5 pages of writing. You will be graded on the quality of your arguments and clarity of prose, not on the moral or political position you defend.

Reading Schedule

I. BIRTH

ABORTION

Judith Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"

Don Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral"

Marry Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"

Michael Tooley, "Abortion and Infanticide"

Bonnie Steinbock, "The Morality of Killing Human Embryos"

Steven Levitt, "Abortion and Crime"

II. GENES

GENETIC THERAPY and GENETIC ENHANCEMENT

David Resnik, "The moral significance of the Therapy-Enhancement distinction"

Michael Sandel, "The Case against Perfection"

Jonathan Glover, "Some Questions about Genetic Engineering"

Allen Buchanan, *Better than Human*

Philosophy Bites Podcasts: Allen Buchanan on [Enhancement](#), Julian Savulescu on [Designer Babies](#)

III. DEATH

EUTHANASIA

Tom Beauchamp, "Justifying Physician Assisted Deaths"

Brad Hooker, "Rule Utilitarianism and Euthanasia"

David Velleman, "Against the Right to Die"

John Hardwig, "Dying at the Right Time"

Planet Money Podcast: [The Town Where Everyone Talks about Death](#)

IV. MARKETS

RECREATIONAL DRUGS

Peter DeMarneffe, "Against the Legalization of Drugs"

Michael Huemer, "America's Unjust Drug War"

C. Hughes and A. Stevens, "What Can we learn from Portuguese Drug Decriminalization?"

ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS

Stuart Levy, "The Challenge of Antibiotic Resistance"

In-class video: [The Evolutionary Arms Race](#)

Michael Selgelid, "Ethics and Drug Resistance"

Jonny Anomaly, "Collective Action and Individual Choice"

VACCINES

Tom Sorell, "Parental Choice and Expert Knowledge in the Debate about MMR and Autism"

Jessica Flanigan, "A Defense of Compulsory Vaccination"

Angus Dawson, "Herd Protection as a Public Good"

ORGANS

Arthur Caplan, "Organ Transplantation"

Debra Satz, "The Moral Limits of Markets: The Case of Human Organs"

Gerald Dworkin, "Of Markets and Morals: The Case for Organ Sales"

Jaworksi and Brennan, *Markets Without Limits* (selections on organs)

BABIES

Elizabeth Anderson, "Is Women's Labor a Commodity?"

Peter Jaworski and Jason Brennan, "Baby Buying" *Markets Without Limits* (chapter 18)

HEALTH CARE

Norm Daniels, "Is There a Right to Health Care?"

Allen Buchanan, "The Right to a Decent Minimum"

Milton Friedman, "How to Cure Health Care"

Milton Weinstein, "Should physicians be gatekeepers of medical resources?"

Jessica Flanigan, "Three Arguments against Prescription Requirements"

V. RESEARCH

PEOPLE

Alison Grady, "Money for Research Participation"

Julian Savulescu, "The Fiction of Undue Inducement"

ANIMALS

Peter Singer, "All Animals Are Equal"

Michael Pollan, "An Animal's Place"

Philosophy Bites Podcast: [Peter Singer on the Human Use of Animals](#)