

Philosophy 431/500 (Seminar in Biomedical Ethics)
(Spring 2024)

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Office hours: Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 – 9:30 and by appointment

Course Material:

Text: (on reserve) Veatch, Haddad and English, eds. *Case Studies in Biomedical Ethics* (Oxford, 2010)

- material on Brightspace

Formal Course Requirements

1. Preparation and in-class presentation of a case-study, to be arranged by the student in consultation with the instructor. (20%)
2. Preparation of one paper worth 50% of the course grade. The papers may be a version of the class presentation. The paper is due by 9 pm on the last day of classes. The paper may be handed in electronically; MS-Word format, single space, 12 pt.; with appropriate references.
3. A final examination worth 30%, the time and place to be scheduled by the University.

Late assignments unaccompanied by a legitimate excuse will be penalized at the rate of 5% per day or portion thereof, to a maximum of 30%.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned on a percentile basis with letter grade equivalents as follows: F=0-49; D=50-59; C=60-64; C+=65-69; B-=70-72; B=73-76; B+=77-79; A-=80-84; A=85-89; A+=90-100. The criteria for assigning grades may be found in the University Calendar. Students are encouraged to discuss their examinations with the instructor.

Inappropriate behaviour and contraventions of academic integrity

Inappropriate behaviour and violations of standards of academic integrity as defined in the University Calendar will be dealt with in accordance with University Regulations.

Academic Integrity and Professional Conduct

Humanities. As part of professionalism, students, faculty and staff are expected to be familiar with University policies, including the Tri-Faculty Standards.

Tentative Outline of Topics

It is impossible to give dates for the various topics as the time frame depends on the in-class discussion.

1. Introduction

- Framework of the seminar
- Approach taken
- Illustrative topics:
 - Healthcare Professionals and the Pharmaceutical Industry

2. Informed Consent for special populations

Relevant Readings: Text cases 6-1, 2, 5; 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-6, 7-8; 14-7; 16-8; 17-2, 17-4

- AC v. Winnipeg Child and Family Services [2009] S.C.R.; available at <http://scc.lexum.org/en/2009/2009scc30/2009scc30.html>
- Non-European cultural embedding
- Re A. (in utero) [1997] 3 S.C.R. ,Winnipeg Child and Family Services (Northwest Area) v. G. (D.F.) available at <http://csc.lexum.org/en/1997/1997scr3-925/1997scr3-925.html>

3. Allocation of Resources

Relevant readings: Text cases 4-5, 5-2, 5-5, 5-6, 14-8, 14-9, 18-8

- Notes provided by the instructor on Brightspace.
- Denier Y. “On Personal Responsibility and the Human Right to Healthcare” Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics 14:2 (2005) 224-234.; available at [http://journals.cambridge.org.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=290036&fulltextType=RA&fileId=2-4\(.C09631\(i\)-2\(04\(yA\)2c2c2309n\)AMCID%20BDC-0.0](http://journals.cambridge.org.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=290036&fulltextType=RA&fileId=2-4(.C09631(i)-2(04(yA)2c2c2309n)AMCID%20BDC-0.0)

online.info/cases/206PQ193.htm

- Moore v. Regents of the University of California available at <https://content.csbs.utah.edu/~dlevin/Intro-Law-Politics/Moore-v-Regents-abridged.pdf>

9. Dead humans as organ banks

- W. Gaylin, "Harvesting the Dead" available at https://instruct.uwo.ca/philosophy/152-001/Gaylin_HtD.pdf

- Fabre J. Presumed consent for organ donation: a clinically unnecessary and corrupting influence in medicine and politics, *Clin Med (Lond)* 2014 Dec;14(6):567-7; available at <https://www.rcpjournals.org/content/clinmedicine/14/6/567>

- Pucetti "Does Anyone Survive Neocortical Death?" available at https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-94-009-2707-0_3

- Canadian Paediatric Society, "Use of anencephalic newborns as organ donors." *Paediatr Child Health*. 2005 Jul-Aug; 10(6): 335–337, available at [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2722973/#:~:text=Official%20statement%20from%20the%20Canadian,of%20pronouncement%20of%20death%20\(8%2C](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2722973/#:~:text=Official%20statement%20from%20the%20Canadian,of%20pronouncement%20of%20death%20(8%2C)

SOME POSSIBLE PAPER TOPICS

1. Informed consent for special populations (e.g., infants, impaired adult persons, prisoners or other special groups, etc.).
2. The right to live at risk (elderly population with or without mental impairment/deficit).
3. Drug testing, the use of drugs in sports, and related issues.
4. The ethical acceptability of health-status requirements for immigrants.

10. Cultural autonomy and medical practice in a multicultural society, with special attention to S. 15 of the Charter.
11. Ethical issues in research and experimentation.
12. Ethical issues in health care informatics.
13. Deliberate death: Suicide, assisted suicide, terminal sedation, selective treatment for newborn children, etc.
14. Publicly v. privately funded health care.
15. The use of animals in medical experimentation.
16. The human genome: access, ownership and dispositionary rights.
17. The ethics of porcine heart valves, Jews and Muslims: When dietary injunctions conflict with medical practice.