

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Discipline: Philosophy
Fall 2008
PHIL 126Z: Biomedical Ethics
Upper Division
Faculty Name: Scott Stewart

Suggested Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to many of the pressing ethical issues facing us in health care, both in the developed and in the developing world. After a discussion of ethical theory and the ways it can be used to investigate health care, topics to be examined include the following: HIV/AIDS; research ethics; the role played by 'Big Pharma' in contemporary health care; medical tourism; the 'right' to health care; cosmetic vs. restorative medicine; medical ethics during war; and euthanasia. Given our setting, we shall explore these issues from a global perspective. For example: Are transnational pharmaceutical companies exploiting or helping people in developing countries by conducting research trials there? Are certain diseases – e.g., depression and body dysmorphic disorder – culturally relative? Is it appropriate to talk of a "global obesity epidemic" when many in the world are starving? Do physicians have a different relationship with their patients in different parts of the world? Ought they? Does medical ethics change during war?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To become familiar with some of the pressing issues in biomedical ethics.
2. To think critically about important philosophical issues.
3. To learn to interpret well complex readings.
4. To reflect on the ways in bioethics may vary in different cultural settings.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Major topics:

1. Normative Ethical Theory, Principlism
2. HIV/AIDS, and cross cultural perspectives
3. Research Ethics and the influence of Big Pharma
4. Cosmetic medicine and medical tourism
5. Bioethics and War
6. Euthanasia
7. Justice and health care

All readings below refer to the course text by Munson unless otherwise noted. All additional readings will be on the course intranet page.

Unit 1: Ethical Theory

Readings: Munson, PART V: Foundations of Bioethics, 744-794.

Unit 2: HIV/AIDS and cross cultural perspectives

Readings: Munson Ch. 3, Cases + Introduction, 178-193, Mayer, The irresponsibility that spreads AIDS," (193-194," Rabinowich, "The great hijack," 194-195, Saturn, Controlling HIV/AIDS forever," 195-198, Hunter and Angoff, "Insurers are right on AIDS testing," 198-200, Gifford, "A insidious test for AIDS." 200-201, Annas and Grodin, "Human rights ... Africa," 201-205, Bagenda and P. Musoke-Mudido, "We're trying to help our sickest people, not exploit them," 205-207.

Additional (non-required) readings: Benatar & Landman, "Bioethics in South Africa," *Cambridge Quarterly of Health Care Ethics*, 2006, 15 (3): 239-247 INTRANET, Brennan & Baines, "Is there a morally right price for anti-retroviral drugs in the developing world?" *Business Ethics: A European Review*, 2006, 15 (1): 29-43, INTRANET.

Unit 3: Research Ethics and the influence of Big Pharma

Readings: Munson, Ch 1, Cases + Introduction, 1-40, Jonas, "Philosophical reflections on experimenting with human subjects," (45-54), Goldby et al., "The Willowbrook letters," (54-57), Ramsey, "Judgment on Willowbrook," "Principles of the Nuremberg Code," (61), Munson, "The Tuskegee syphilis case," (212-222), Elliott, "Pharma goes to the laundry," Hastings Center Report, 2004, 34 (5): 18-23, INTRANET, Lustgarten & Cherry, "Drug testing goes offshore," *Fortune*, 2005, 152 (3): 66-72. INTRANET.

Unit 4: Cosmetic Medicine and Medical Tourism

Readings: Peter Kramer, *Listening to Prozac* (excerpt), Penguin, 1994, INTRANET, Elliott, "The tyranny of happiness, in Erik Parens, ed., *Enhancing human traits*, Georgetown University Press, 2000, 131-143, INTRANET, Little, "Cosmetic surgery and suspect norms," in Erik Parens, ed., *Enhancing human traits*, Georgetown University Press, 2000, 153-165, INTRANET, Stewart, "Hacking the blues: The construction of the depressed adolescent," *International Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 2001, 15 (2): 219-237, INTRANET. L. Burhart & L Gentry, "Medical tourism: What you should know," *Saturday Evening Post*, 2008, 280 (1), 52-94, 5 pp's, INTRANET, Gina Golata, "The fat wars," Ch. 8 in *Rethinking Thin*, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 187-212.

Unit 5: Bioethics and War

Readings: Michael L. Gross *Bioethics and Armed Conflict: Moral Dilemmas of Medicine and War*, MIT Press, 2006, Ch.1, "Setting the stage", 3-26, Ch. 7, "Torture, ill-treatment, and interrogation, 211-245, INTRANET. Sheldon Harris, *Factories of Death: Japanese Biological Warfare, 1932-45, and the American Cover-Up* (excerpt), 1995, 242-250, INTRANET.

Unit 6: Euthanasia

Readings: Munson, Ch. 11, 687-708, Gay-Williams, "The wrongfulness of euthanasia," 708-711, Callahan, "When self determination runs amok," 711-716, Lachs, "When abstract moralizing runs amok," 716-720, Rachels, "Active and passive euthanasia," 720-723, Brock, "Voluntary active euthanasia," 723-730.

Unit 7: Justice and Health care

Readings: Munson, Ch. 8 507-528. "President's commission," 529-537, "Buchanan, "Is there a right to a decent minimum of health care," 537-542, Ray Romanow, "Sustaining Medicare: The commission on the future of health care in Canada," in Baylis, Downie, Hoffmaster, and Sherwin, ed's., *Health Care Ethics in Canada*, 2nd ed., Thomson, 2004, 79-99.

FIELD COMPONENT

Each student is required to complete three practica (either Faculty Directed or Independent) during our voyage. At least two of these practica must be Faculty Directed. If an Independent Practicum is selected, then the student must meet with me *prior* to arriving in the port-of-call to discuss his or her approach and objectives. All students are required to (1) keep a journal of their field observations and (2) write a 4-5 page paper about each field experience.

Journals should be a record of the students' notes from the field experience. Instructions regarding approach and field notes will be given prior to arriving to ports. Students are encouraged to engage a local person(s) in conversation about the work of art or temple and to make notes of relevant comments from this dialogue. (Given language barriers, this may not always be possible.)

The paper should include (1) a brief summary of the student's field notes, (2) an indication of how the practica related to relevant class readings and discussions of the issue being explored, and (3) the way(s) in which local practices influenced your beliefs about the theoretical issue as addressed in class and in your readings.

SUGGESTED PRACTICA:

NAMIBIA:	Walvis Bay Multipurpose Centre Trust (FDP)
MALAYSIA:	Penang: Drug Rehabilitation Center; St. Joseph Orphanage
VIET NAM:	Former UPI Photographer and the Museum of War Remnants – Group A (FDP)
HONG KONG:	Healthy Living Hong Kong Style
SHANGHAI:	Family Planning Neighborhood Committee (FDP)
JAPAN:	Multiculturalism in Japan (FDP)

METHODS OF EVALUATION

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| 1. | Journal papers (3 short papers) | 25% |
| 2. | Midterm exam (test in class B13, including some 'objective' questions, short answers, and a 'long' essay of 4-5 pages (handwritten, double-spaced)) | 25% |
| 3. | Research Essay (5-6 pages due in class B23) | 25% |
| 4. | Final exam (which will have the same structure as the midterm) | 25% |

Although there is no formal grade given for class participation, I expect you to come to class each day, and to be prepared by having read and thought about the readings for that day. Past experience has shown a high correlation between class preparation, participation, and good grades. Students also tend to enjoy the class much more when they actively participate.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Ronald Munson

TITLE: *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*

PUBLISHER: Thomson, Wadsworth

ISBN #:0-534-56507-7

DATE/EDITION:2004/seventh

COST:\$100.00

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: T. Beauchamp & J. Childress

TITLE: *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*

PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press

ISBN #:0195143329

DATE/EDITION: 2001/fifth

COST: \$54.95

AUTHOR: Michael Gross

TITLE: *Bioethics and Armed Conflict*

PUBLISHER: MIT Press

ISBN #:0262072696

DATE/EDITION: 2006/first

COST: \$26.77

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Benatar & Landman
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Bioethics in South Africa"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*
VOLUME: 15 (3)
DATE: 2006
PAGES: 239-247

AUTHOR: Brennab & Baines
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Is there a morally right price for anti-retroviral drugs in the developing world?"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Business Ethics: A European Review*
VOLUME: 15 (1)
DATE: 2006
PAGES 29-43

AUTHOR: C. Elliott
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Pharma goes to the laundry"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Hastings Center Report*
VOLUME: 34 (5)
DATE: 2004
PAGES 18-23

AUTHOR: Lustgarten & Cherry
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Drug testing goes offshore"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Fortune*
VOLUME: 152 (3)
DATE: 2005
PAGES 66-72

AUTHOR: P. Kramer
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Introduction
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Listening to Prozac*
VOLUME:
DATE: 1994
PAGES 1-15

AUTHOR: C. Elliott
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The tyranny of happiness"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Enhancing Human Traits* (Eric Parens, ed.)
VOLUME:
DATE: 2000
PAGES 131-143

AUTHOR: R.S. Stewart
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Hacking the blues: The construction of the depressed adolescent"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *International Journal of Applied Philosophy*
VOLUME: 15 (2)
DATE: 2001
PAGES 219-237

AUTHOR: M. Little
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Cosmetic surgery and suspect norms"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Enhancing Human Traits* (Eric Parens, ed.)
VOLUME:
DATE: 2000
PAGES 153-165

AUTHOR: Burhart & Gentry
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Medical Tourism: What you should know"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Saturday Evening Post*
VOLUME: 280 (1)
DATE: 2008
PAGES 52-94 5 pp's

AUTHOR: Michael Gross
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Ch 1 "Setting the Stage"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Bioethics and armed conflict*
VOLUME:
DATE: 2006
PAGES 3-26

AUTHOR: Michael Gross
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Ch 7 "Torture, ill-treatment, and interrogation"
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Bioethics and armed conflict*
VOLUME:
DATE: 2006
PAGES 211-245

AUTHOR: Sheldon Harris
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: *Factories of Death*
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Factories of Death*
VOLUME:
DATE: 1995
PAGES 242-250

AUTHOR: Roy Romanow

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Sustaining Medicare"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Health care ethics in Canada* (Baylis, Downie, Hoffmaster, & Sherwin, ed's.)

VOLUME: 2nd edition

DATE: 2004

PAGES 79-99

AUTHOR: Gina Golata

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The fat wars"

JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Rethinking Thin*

VOLUME:

DATE: 2007

PAGES 187-212