

**New York City College of Technology
The City University of New York
Social Sciences Department**

Health Care Ethics
PHIL 2203
Interdisciplinary Course
Fall 2017
(3 credits, 3 hours)
Meeting Time:
Class Location:

Instructor: Dr. William Koch
Email: william235koch@gmail.com
Office Hours: Thursday 10-11
and by appointment
Office Location: N 600
Main office phone: 718.260.5080

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the major ethical theories on what is morally right and wrong, and the meaning of moral concepts (e.g., the concepts of right and duty). Focus is on ethical problems associated with the practice of medicine and biomedical research.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This interdisciplinary course is intended to familiarize students with the major ethical implications of biomedical technology and practice as well as to provide the skills and philosophical grounding necessary to constructively engage in debates and policy decisions surrounding these issues. Such an undertaking requires, as well, engaging with the values, theories, and practices of the many disciplines which unite in the health care field. Specifically we will be looking at such issues as human and animal testing, confidentiality, informed consent, abortion, euthanasia, stem-cell research and healthcare reform. We will also philosophically engage with the history of the development of modern medicine and the ethical challenges this history might suggest.

Interdisciplinary learning will be facilitated through guest lecturers from disciplines other than philosophy and assignments that require students to take on the methodology and view-point of different disciplines in the course of analyzing ethical case studies.

This class will involve both lectures and discussion. It is expected that everyone will participate in these discussions, which will constitute a major part of the class. It is required that the text and other materials (handouts) be read prior to the class for which they are assigned, so that each student can contribute intelligently to the discussion. Participation will be a factor in your grade.

PRE-REQUISITES
ENG 1101

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Degrazia, Mappes, Brand-Ballard, *Biomedical Ethics* 7th Edition (BE)
Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (IL)
Additional readings will be added through Blackboard as needed

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

You are expected to be proficient in the use of computers including word processing, internet and Blackboard, for successful completion of this class. However, use of electronic devices including laptops, e-readers and cell phones during class meetings is forbidden without previous

permission from the instructor. Please discuss the issue with me should you need to use electronic devices in class.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student will be required to present on one of the class readings in the course of the semester. There will also be one paper, five to eight pages long, and one test. Other homework assignments may be added as needed.

GRADES:

Term Paper: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Quizzes, Attendance and Participation: 10%

Response Papers: 30%

3 papers: 10% each

Group Presentation: 20%

Written Report: 10%

Presentation: 10%

FORMAT AND PROOFREADING EXPECTATIONS: The margins for the paper must be 1 inch on the right and left of the page, and 1 inch from the top and bottom of the page. The font needs to be Times New Roman and 12 pt in size. Your name must be a top corner of the page with the course number and section on the next line. In the third line there must be a title for the work. Finally, the fourth line begins the body of your work. The body of your work must be double-spaced with the written content meeting the stated minimum amount.

The papers must be properly formatted. If not, the assignment may be graded down or not at all. Excessive grammatical errors and oversights may also mean your paper will be graded down or not at all. Finally, the paper's content must be on topic or it will be graded down or not at all. Late papers will be marked down one grade increment (i.e. an A becomes an A-) for each day they are late.

CELL PHONES

All cellular phones must be turned off in class. If a cell phone rings, the student will be asked to leave the session and will be counted as absent.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE POLICY

The maximum number of absence hours is limited to one more class hour than the contact hours. For example, you may be enrolled in a four hour class that meets four times a week. You are allowed five hours of absence, not five days. In the case of excessive absence, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an "F" or "WU" grade.

Classes begin promptly at the times indicated in the Schedule of Classes. Arrival in classes after the scheduled starting time constitutes lateness. Latecomers may, at the discretion of the instructor, incur an official absence.

ACADEMIC ADJUSTMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Student Support Services Program.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

This course outline may be subject to change as the instructor sees fit. This may mean taking out readings and adding other ones.

Meeting

1: Introduction

2: Major Ethical Theories, Chapter One BE

3: Major Ethical Theories, Chapter One BE

4: Major Ethical Theories, Chapter One BE

5: The Professional-Patient Relationship, Chapter Two BE

6: **Guest Lecture:** The Professional-Patient Relationship, Chapter Two BE

7: Contested Therapies, Chapter Three BE

8: Contested Therapies, Chapter Three BE

9: Human and Animal Research, Chapter Four BE

10: Human and Animal Research, Chapter Four BE

11: **Guest Lecture:** Human and Animal Research, Chapter Four BE

12: Test Review

13: **Midterm**

14: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Part One

15: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Part Two
16: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Part Three

17: **Guest Lecture:** *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Part Three
18: Death, Chapter Five BE

19: Death, Chapter Five BE
20: **Guest Lecture:** Suicide and Euthanasia, Chapter Six BE

21: Suicide and Euthanasia, Chapter Six BE
22: Abortion and Stem Cell Research, Chapter Seven BE

23: **Guest Lecture:** Abortion and Stem Cell Research, Chapter Seven BE
24: Abortion and Stem Cell Research, Chapter Seven BE

25: Genetics and Human Reproduction, Chapter Eight BE
26: **Guest Lecture:** Genetics and Human Reproduction, Chapter Eight BE

27: Group presentation
28: Group presentation

29: Group presentation
30: **-FINAL PAPER DUE**

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ASSESSMENT METHODS
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1. Learn key theories and principles from philosophical ethics and health care ethics, and gain an appreciation for how philosophy can shed light on issues in health care.	1. Reading quizzes and homework assignments; objective questions and essays on exams.

<p>2. Acquire skills in philosophical reasoning, including constructing and analyzing arguments, recognizing ethical issues, and gaining an ability think critically about their own values and assumptions.</p>	<p>2. Class participation grade; case study; reflection papers.</p>
<p>3. Integrate a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including the findings of science and the methods of philosophy, to arrive at practical answers for health care ethical problems and issues</p>	<p>3. Objective elements of the midterm; research requirement for term paper; homework and in-class assignments involving case analysis.</p>
<p>4. Reflect critically on personal values and assumptions, work together with other students to find mutually agreeable resolutions to ethical issues.</p>	<p>4. Homework assignments requiring personal reflection; case analysis, in homework, on tests, and in class; class discussions.</p>

Grades

A 93-100

A- 90-92.9

B+ 87-89.9

B 83-86.9

B- 80-82.9

C+ 77-79.9

C 70-76.9

D 60-69.9

F 59.9 and below