

Biomedical Ethics

Instructor | Francesco Pupa, PhD
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Office Hours | T: 11-12³⁰, F: 10-11³⁰
Room | 217 Rm. G (M Building)

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Course Description | This course is designed to introduce students to the ethical, social, and political controversies surrounding medical practices and institutions. Throughout the semester, students will be exposed to the dominant ethical and political frameworks used to understand and evaluate medical practices and institutions, and, hopefully, form and defend their own opinions regarding the major issues in Biomedical Ethics.

Text | Veatch, R., et. al. (2010). *Case Studies in Biomedical Ethics*. Oxford: Oxford UP.

Grades | Grades will be determined in the following manner:

- ❖ Two Exams = 40%
- ❖ Final Paper = 20%
- ❖ Ten Reading Quizzes = 25%
- ❖ Class Participation (group work, class discussions) = 15%

Exams | Exams consist of 5 to 10 short-answer questions. There is one and only one make-up exam. All are entitled to the make-up. So, any excuse will do (but just once). The make-up occurs on the last day of classes.

Final Paper | The final paper will be a three page paper that focuses on one special problem area that we intend to cover. The final paper is due by 12/18. **Zero late papers will be accepted.** Formatting requirements will be specified later in the semester.

Reading Quizzes | Reading Quizzes are worth 2.5 points each. The quizzes consist of 5 short answer questions regarding the content of the day's reading. They will begin at the beginning of class. **If you are late, you will not be able to take the quiz.**

Participation | Attendance counts! The more you are absent, the more your grade will be negatively affected. Perfect attendance, of course, will raise your overall grade. This class relies heavily on in-class discussion. As such, your performance in class will weigh heavily on your overall participation grade and, in turn, on your overall grade.

Plagiarism | “Allegations of plagiarism or any form of academic dishonesty shall be dealt with by the appropriate academic department personnel, unless they determine that it goes beyond the scope of departmental sanctions. In such a case the matter will be referred to the Dean of Students' Office in writing. The Dean, Assistant, or Associate Dean of Students will use his/her discretion in determining whether the alleged violation could warrant suspension or expulsion” (Student Code of Conduct: < http://www.ncc.edu/administration/policies/code_conduct.htm>).

Course Schedule

(Subject to Change)

Week 1 -- (9/4)	<i>Course Overview</i>
Week 2 -- (9/11)	<i>Introduction: Four Questions of Ethics</i> Reading 3 - 19
Week 3 -- (9/18)	<i>A Model for Ethical Problem Solving</i> Reading 23 - 32
Week 4 -- (9/25)	<i>What is the Source of Moral Judgments?</i> Reading 49 - 68
Week 5 -- (9/2)	<i>Spill-over & Exam 1</i>
Week 6 -- (10/9)	<i>Benefitting the Patient and Others</i> Reading 71 - 96
Week 7 -- (10/16)	<i>Autonomy</i> Reading 113 - 131
Week 8 -- (10/23)	<i>Fidelity</i> Reading 154 - 171
Week 9 -- (10/30)	<i>Avoidance of Killing</i> Reading 172 - 203
Week 10 -- (11/6)	<i>Spill-over & Exam 2</i>
Week 11 -- (11/13)	<i>Abortion, Sterilization, and Contraception</i> Reading 207 - 228
Week 12 -- (11/20)	<i>Genetics, Birth, and the Biological Revolution</i> Reading 229 - 249
Week 13 -- (12/4)	<i>Consent and the Right to Refuse Treatment</i> Reading 366 - 388
Week 14 -- (12/11)	<i>Health Insurance, Health System Planning, and Rationing</i> Reading 323 - 339
Week 15 -- (12/18)	<i>Final Paper & Make Up Exams</i>

Please Note | If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned coursework, I would urge that you contact the staff in the Center for Students with Disabilities, Building U (behind the old College Union), at 516 572-7241 or 516 572-7617 (TTY). The Center for Students with Disabilities will review your concerns and determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.