

**Biomedical Ethics (3cr)**  
Phil 365 (4977 and 4978) [HUM]  
**Fall 2015**

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**Instructor:** Michael Goldsby  
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Office: 226 Johnson Tower  
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12:30-1:30 Wed, or by  
appointment

**Lecture Times:**

(Section 1) 9:10 -10am, MWF -> ->  
(Section 2) 10:10-11am, MWF -> ->

**Location:**

-> 230 Todd Hall  
-> 101 Kimbrough Music Hall

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**Required Materials:**

- (1) *Bioethics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition by Lewis Vaughn (BE)
- (2) Additional Electronic Readings (ER)
- (3) Top Hat Subscription (<https://tophat.com>)

The text (1) is available at the Barnes and Noble at the CUB. Electronic Readings (2) will be posted on Blackboard. You can purchase a Top Hat subscription (3) at <https://tophat.com>.

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**Course Description and Goals:**

This is a broad survey course covering contemporary ethical issues in medical practice. The first part of this course will cover some logic as well as some important normative theories. The goal of the first unit is to provide a framework for thinking about very difficult and important ethical issues. For the remainder of the course, we will use that framework to look at particular issues that are controversial and very important. In some cases, the answer to the ethical issues might be readily apparent, but in many of the cases that we will consider the answer will not be so clear. **One goal of this course is to provide you with the means to think more clearly about these difficult issues, which we will practice by exploring some of them. Additionally, you will learn to articulate your views and defend them with evidence and argument, which will be assessed in your written assignments.** (UCORE course goals: Critical Thinking; Information Literacy; Communication)

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**Course Requirements:**

Your grade in this class will be determined by (1) your performance on the midterm, (2) the quality of your written assignments, (3) the successful completion of the logic exercise, (4) your engagement in the class, and (5) your participation in the ethics bowl competition:

Logic Exercise	5%
Written Assignments (3)	45% (15% each)
Midterm Exam	20%
Ethics Bowl	20%
Participation	10%

You will receive a numerical score (0-100) based on weighted average that corresponds to the breakdown indicated above, which corresponds to a letter grade as indicated by the following scale:

A	93-100
A-/B+	88-92
B	83-87
B-/C+	78-82
C	70-77
D	60-69
F	< 60

You will note that there are some swing grades (e.g. between A and AB (92-93)). If you receive a final score that is such a swing grade, then your letter grade will be determined by two factors: (1) how close you are to one score or the other (e.g. 92.75 is closer to 93 than 92.25); and (2) how well you've participated in class.

1. *Assignments* – Over the course of this semester, you will be required to complete four (4) short assignments or problem sets. The exact details of each assignment will be provided along with the instructions when the assignment is assigned. The assignment's instructions are to be followed very closely and failure to do so will result in a grade reduction for that assignment. With the exception of the logic assignment, all assignments will be assigned one week prior to the due date. **The due dates of each assignment are listed in the class schedule, and thus should not be a surprise to anyone.** Any assignment received after the class meeting, but before the following midnight will be considered **mildly late** and will receive a **five (-5) point penalty**. Assignments received after the midnight following the due date but before the next class meeting will be considered **extremely late** and will receive a **twenty point penalty (-20)**. Assignments that have not been received prior to the next class meeting after the due date will be considered **atrociously late**. **Atrociously late assignments will not be accepted.** Assignments that are not accepted or not completed will receive a **zero**.
2. *Midterm Exam* – The midterm exam is scheduled for **9 October 2015**. You will be responsible for all material covered prior to the midterm. It will be an essay exam, which will be conducted in class. ~~There will be no makeup for the midterm exam, without prior arrangements being made. If you are unable to take the midterm, then the final essay will account for 50% of your final grade.~~ **Since there is no final paper, as the final paper is actually a final exam (which does not exist in this class), the stricken clause no longer applies.**
3. *Ethics Bowl* – There is no final exam for this class. However, there is still a need to assess your progress in this class. Toward that end, we will be holding a modified ethics bowl competition, wherein you and your teammates will be able to display your (improved) ethical reasoning abilities. There will be a winning team in this competition (who will be the envy of their peers), but a good grade does not depend upon winning. Instead you will be graded on your participation in the competition, as well as how well your team displays ethical reasoning. More details on the ethics bowl will be provided after the midterm.

4. *Participation* – Julia and I will be keeping track of your attendance, preparedness, engagement, effort, and attitude. One method that we will use to monitor your participation is the Top Hat system, which will allow even the shyest person to interact with the class electronically. Everyday in class, you will have some opportunity to participate in at least one question. Top Hat will automatically keep track of your participation by awarding you participation points every time you answer one of the questions presented in class. Additionally, with some questions, you may be able to earn correctness points. Your participation grade will be a function of the total possible participation points and the participation and correctness points that you earn. Furthermore, those who've had exemplary participation according to the standards just mentioned are more likely to be granted the higher grade should their average fall in a swing grade range. **One word of caution: you must be in class to participate via Tophat. Answering Tophat questions while not in class is a form of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such.**

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#### **Guidelines and Policies:**

*Attendance* – Attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend class will impact your grade both directly and indirectly. Much of the material in this class will most likely be new to you – not to mention difficult – meaning that your likelihood of success decreases with every absence. Furthermore, your participation grade (which can make a difference if your grade is borderline) directly depends upon your showing up to class – one cannot participate if one is not present. I will check attendance, periodically, via Tophat. **(Note: if you choose to leave class early, I reserve the right to change your attendance status for that period.)**

*Lecture* – Our time together is very precious, and as such, I expect you to attend the lectures having read the assigned readings and generally ready to learn. This also means that during class time there should be nothing on your desk that is not required for class (e.g. no newspapers, cell phones, etc.). All **cell phones** should be silenced. If you use your cell phone to participate with Tophat, that is fine, but you ought not be texting in the middle of class. **Laptops** may be used for note-taking if you wish, but you should not be checking email, tweeting, facebooking or doing anything else distracting while in lecture. I will call you out if I find that others are being distracted. **I reserve the right to change my laptop policy at any time.** Failure to adhere to these rules may result in a penalty to your overall grade.

*Respect in the Classroom* – Over the course of the semester, we may discuss some very sensitive issues – ones that may cause your blood to boil. I think J.S. Mill said it best when he said, “there is nothing that offends no one, and no one who is offended by nothing.” It is possible that you may leave lecture very upset about the day’s discussion – good! I hope that I challenge you to think about issues of such import that they would make us angry, sad and wanting to make a change in our lives or the world. However, I expect everyone to treat every other member of this class with the highest degree of respect. Acting otherwise will result in dire consequences for the transgressors.

*Communications Policy* – The best way to get in touch with me is via email. I have my phone number listed above, and you are welcome to give me a call. However, you are much more likely to get a response or acknowledgment via email. I check my email frequently, and I will generally make every effort to respond to your emails in a timely manner (usually within a couple of hours). However, there might be rare cases during the semester when it takes up

to 48 hours for me to do so. Thus, you should plan accordingly, if there is a time constraint that you are worried about. One final note: WSU has just changed their email policy. All official emails must be sent to WSU email addresses. I may still respond to your personal email, but I will send all class business (e.g., announcements) exclusively to your WSU email. It is your responsibility to monitor your WSU email. Claiming that you did not receive word about a class issue because you did not check your WSU account is an excuse that carries no weight for this class. Finally, I will never discuss grades via email due to the possibility of a violation of your privacy.

*Academic Integrity* – I expect all of you to hold yourselves to the highest standards of academic integrity in this class. The Standards of Student Conduct defines plagiarism as “Presenting the information, ideas, or phrasing of another person as the student's own work without proper acknowledgment of the source. This includes submitting a commercially prepared paper or research project or submitting for academic credit any work done by someone else. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials” WAC 504-26-010 (3-i). **Plagiarism or any other breach of academic integrity will not be tolerated. Any such violation will result in a failing grade for the course. Additionally, I will provide a written report of each instance of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Standards and Accountability.**

*Special Arrangements* – Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Access Center. All accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center. Please stop by or call 509-335-3417 to make an appointment with a disability specialist. Also if you do have approved accommodations please let me know by the second week of class.

*Safety Statement* - “Washington State University is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It is highly recommended that you review the Campus Safety Plan (<http://safetyplan.wsu.edu/>) and visit the Office of Emergency Management web site (<http://oem.wsu.edu/>) for a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information related to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community” (Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education 2013).

**\*I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus at any time during the semester.**

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### Tentative Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change.

Date	Topic	Readings	Exams and Assignments
24 Aug	Introduction	SYLLABUS	
26 Aug	Logic	(BE) Chapter 1	
28 Aug	Metaethics		
31 Aug	Normative Ethics	(BE) Chapter 2	
2 Sep			<b>Logic Assignment Due (Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>
4 Sep	Moral Status: Abortion	(BE) pp 291-301; 380-385.	
7 Sep	LABOR DAY		
9 Sep	Moral Status: Abortion (cont)	Warren (BE: 333-342)	
11 Sep		Marquis (BE: 317-328)	
14 Sep		Thompson (BE: 307-316)	
16 Sep	Moral Status: Animal Experimentation	Kant (ER); Cohen (ER)	
18 Sep		Singer (ER)	
21 Sep		Regan (ER)	Assignment 1 Due (Monday the 21 <sup>st</sup> )
23 Sep		Frey (ER)	
25 Sep	Human Experimentation	<i>The Nuremburg Code; Declaration of Helsinki; and "The Belmont Report"</i> (BE 241 -248)	
28 Sep	Human Experimentation: Racism	King (ER)	
30 Sep	Race and Medicine	Andreassen (ER)	
2 Oct	Human Experimentation: RCT	Hellman and Hellman (BE: 254-259)	
5 Oct		Freedman (BE:259-262)	
7 Oct		Review	<b>Midterm 9 October 2015!</b>
9 Oct		MIDTERM	
12 Oct	Informed Consent	(BE) pp 180-190	
14 Oct		Faden and Beauchamp (BE:190-195)	
16 Oct			
19 Oct		Katz (BE:195-204) Brody (BE: 205-211)	
21 Oct	Paternalism	Ackerman (BE: 99-104)	

23 Oct	Allocation		
26 Oct		Rescher (BE: 729-738)	
28 Oct		Moss and Siegler (ER)	
30 Oct		John Harris (BE: 738-746)	
2 Nov	Paternalism: Euthanasia	Harris (ER)	Assignment 2 Due (Monday the 2 <sup>nd</sup> )
4 Nov		Film	
6 Nov		Rachels (BE: 649-653)	
9 Nov		Callahan (ER)	
11 Nov	VETERAN'S DAY		
13 Nov	Paternalism: Euthanasia(Cont)	Brock (BE: 614-625)	
17 Nov	Paternalism: Intersex	Groveman (ER)	
19 Nov	Paternalism: Unnecessary Procedures	Miller, Brody, and Chung (ER)	
21 Nov	Justice in Health Care	Engelhardt (BE: 708-716)	
23 Nov- 27 Nov	Thanksgiving Break		Get some much- needed rest, but make sure you finish your assignment.
30 Nov	Justice in Healthcare (Cont)	Daniels (BE: 696-702)	Assignment 3 Due (Monday the 30 <sup>th</sup> )
2 Dec		Buchanan (BE: 703-708)	
4 Dec	Ethics Bowl		Ethics Bowl
7 Dec	Ethics Bowl		
9 Dec	Ethics Bowl		
11 Dec	Ethics Bowl		