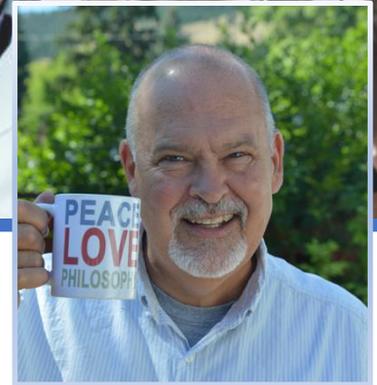


CARROLL COLLEGE BIOETHICS

Spring, 2021 | PHIL208 | MWF, 8:00-8:50am | 102 O'Connell
Dr. Mark Smillie | msmillie@carroll.edu |
Office Hours: MW, 3:30-4:30 pm; T, 9:00-10:00; Th, 2:00-4:30 pm; F, 1:30-3:30



... the fact that you can do things with biological sciences that have an impact on a human being means you must have ethical standards. (Anthony Fauci)

You're here to see why this is so. With this knowledge, you'll be a wiser and happier decision-maker.

Did you know that the doctors have been concerned about ethics for over 2000 years?



... that good and evil are not simply socially constructed ideas?



... that ethics has both individual and social dimensions?



We'll look at the ethics of medicine, both historically and in the contemporary world. You'll learn why ethics should be addressed, how to identify ethical problems, and how to resolve them. You'll become more confident about your decisions, and a more reliable decision-maker.

Required textbook



The Basics of Bioethics, 4th Edition. Robert M. Veatch and Laura K. Guidry-Grimes. Routledge, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-138-58008-4. New: 19. ISBN: 978-1-62466-782-4. New: \$50.00. Ebook: \$27.50

Note: *Please make sure you get the 4th edition of this book; there are enough changes from the 3rd and other editions in this edition that using other editions will be difficult. My research indicates that pricing is best for the 4th edition.*



What does a typical class look like?

We will be assessing the concepts and arguments presented in our text together (as a class, or in smaller groups) and applying the ideas to cases both presented in the text, and provided by the instructor.

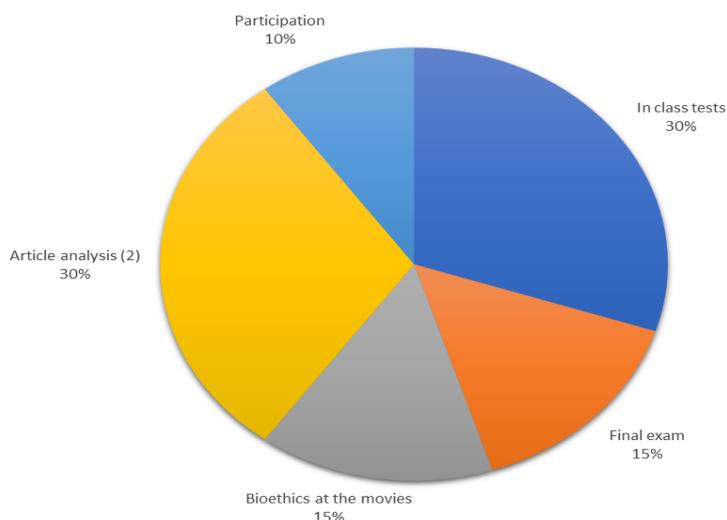
Find this course on Moodle

You should already be added to our course Moodle page.



How are you evaluated?

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION



LETTER	RANGE
A	93-100
A-	90-92.99
B+	87-89.99
B	83-86.99
B-	80-82.99
C+	77-79.99
C	73-76.99
C-	70-72.99
D	60-69.99
F	Below 60
P/F	60

Assignment Details

Assignment #1: Participation

Due: Throughout semester
10% of Final Grade

What is it? Various activities (forum discussions, reflections) assigned as follow up on class room discussions and presentations. You will be responsible for completing 80% of these.

What's the purpose of this assignment? Building dialogue about the issues we are discussing requires time to reflect and put your thoughts down in words, and communicate with other members of the class in a non-confrontational format.

Assignment #2: Article Analyses



Feb 20 and April 30
30% of Final Grade

What is it? A 750-1250 word (3-5 page) essay that identifies the main claim and argument in piece of professional ethics, and explains the reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the author's claims.

What's the purpose of this assignment? The majority of your future bioethical learning will be through continued reading in the subject, and reflection on that reading. In class you are learning the language of bioethics to make this future research productive.

Assignment #3: Movie Review

Mar 31
15% of Final Grade

What is it? Students will prepare a report on a narrative movie where they summarize the plot, identify ethical issues, and reflect on how the ethical issues were resolved.

What is the purpose of this assignment? Having acquired experience about bioethical issues, students will practice identifying those issues in a life-like situation. This will simulate future life experiences.

Assignment #4: Semester Tests

Feb 12 and Mar 19
30% of final Grade

What is it? . Tests will be essay answer focusing on the explanation of the concepts and arguments studied in class since the last test.

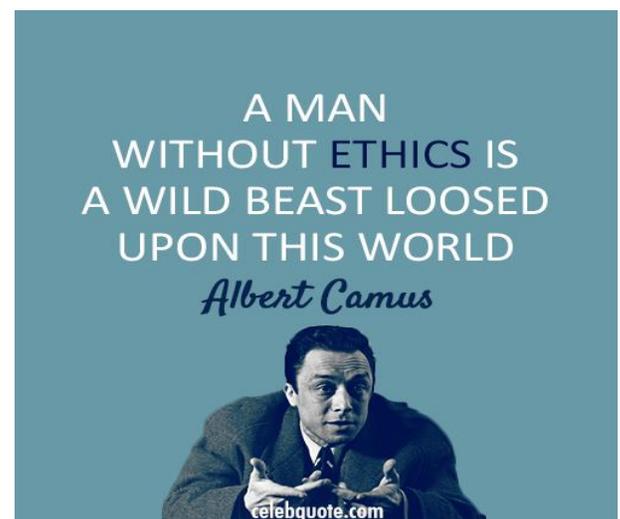
What's the purpose of this assignment? Tests are manifest what you are, not what you don't know. This is an assessment for you of your learning progress and achievement with the readings and topics we will be studying.

Assignment #5: Final Exam

May 13, 800ame
15% of Final Grade

What is it? Final test will be case studies for you to analyze. You won't see them before the final.

What is the purpose of this assignment? An class in applied ethics should end with an application. This will challenge your skills at identification of appropriate ethical principles and defensible application to the situation.



Course Calendar

1	WED 1/20	Why take Bioethics? / Syllabus	
	FRI 1/22	What is ethics? How do we know what is the ethical thing to do?	Read: "A Map of the Terrain of Ethics." (Ch 1)
2	MON 1/25	How can ethical discussion get anywhere?	No New Reading
	WED 1/27	What's the point of the Hippocratic Oath?	Read: "The Hippocratic Oath and its Challengers..." (Ch 2)
FRI 1/29	No New Reading		
3	MON 2/1	What is ethical standing? Who has it?	Read: "The basis of Moral Standing ..." (Ch 3)
	WED 2/3	Is there a definition of death?	No New reading
	FRI 2/5	What is the moral status of a fetus?	No New reading
4	MON 2/8	Can non-humans have moral status?	No New reading
	WED 2/10	Review for Test #1	
	FRI 2/12	Test #1	
5	MON 2/15	What is the relationship between a principle and code of ethics?	"Principle-based Approaches..." (Ch 4)
	WED 2/17	Can principles conflict? Can we move beyond these conflicts?	No New Reading
	FRI 2/19		No New Reading
6	MON 2/22	Can ethics be based on virtue?	"Alternative Approaches..." (Ch 5)
	WED 2/24	What is an ethics of care?	No New reading
	FRI 2/26		No New reading
7	MON 3/1	What is Hippocratic Utility?	"Problems in Benefiting and Avoiding Harm..." (Ch 6)
	WED 3/3	MINI SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS	
	FRI 3/5	How difficult is it to do good for people?	No New reading
8	MON 3/8	Do we need duty-based ethics?	"The Ethics of Respect for Persons..." (Ch 7)
	WED 3/10	Why have physicians considered lying ethics?	No New Reading
	FRI 3/12	What should be the role of autonomy in patient/physician decision making?	No New Reading

9	MON 3/15	What makes consent informed?	No New Reading
	WED 3/17	Review for Test #2	
	FRI 3/19	Test #2	
10	MON 3/22	Is there an ethical duty to avoid killing? Is Physician-suicide ever justifiable?	Read: "The Principle of Avoiding Killing" (Ch 8)
	WED 3/24	Is forgoing treatment equivalent to providing it?	No New Reading
	FRI 3/26	What is the Principle of double effect?	No New Reading
11	MON 3/29	How can we morally justify not treating the sick?	No New Reading
	WED 3/31	What are the principles for making decisions for others?	Read: "Death and Dying for Patients Who are Not their own Decision-makers." (Ch 9)
	FRI 4/2	GOOD FRIDAY: NO CLASS	
12	MON 4/5	EASTER MONDAY: NO CLASS	
	WED 4/7	What are the principles for making decisions for others?	No New Reading
	FRI 4/9	Guest Speaker planned	No New Reading
13	MON 4/12	Is there a line between therapeutic and other uses of technology?	Read: "Human Control of Life" (Ch 10)
	WED 4/14	Should society set limits on the allowable uses of technology?	No New Reading
	FRI 4/16		No New Reading
14	MON 4/19	Do we have a right to procreative autonomy? Should that right be unlimited?	Read: "Reproductive Choice and Advancing Technologies ... (Ch 11)
	WED 4/21		No New Reading
	FRI 4/23	SURF—NO CLASS Article Analysis and Reflection is due Sunday night, April 19.	No New Reading
15	MON 4/26	Is access to reproductive technologies a right for all?	No New Reading
	WED 4/28	How do social principles of ethics differ from individual principles?	Read "Social Ethics of Medicine" (Ch8)
	FRI 4/30	Should justice ever trump utility in social decisions about medicine?	No New Reading
MON 5/3	No New Reading		
16	WED 5/5	Last day of class—what to do next	

Course Policies



Citizenship has to do with attendance as well as how you treat others. Most wars, fights, retaliations, & insults happen when people feel their dignity has been assaulted. So please, respect each individual's opinions and beliefs--even if you disagree.

Please **attend** class regularly. If you are late, I prefer you quietly slip in rather than miss the class. I keep an attendance record; please inform me if you cannot make it to class (email is fine).

Any more than four unexcused **absences** (90% attendance) and I reserve the right to fail you. Why? Because you are sending a message (intentionally or unintentionally) that you don't care. And it rubs people the wrong way.



Keep your **cell phones** on silent and avoid using them in class (or take it outside for emergencies) so we can focus. Another citizenship issue: we all know that feeling when you're talking to a friend and his or her attention is on the phone...

The **readings** form the core of our class discussions, so please come prepared. I expect each of you to contribute!



I will **respond** to email and phone inquiries within one business day (Saturdays and Sundays are not business days, nor are College holidays). I will post notifications in the Moodle Announcements; and keep the Calendar feature up to date. Students are expected to see and respond to communications from me on the same time frame, by the end of the following business day. You should plan to check your Carroll email regularly.

For questions about COVID, please see the my COVID policy.



Submit **assignments** electronically on Moodle; uplinks will be there and deadlines will be posted.



I get that there are **emergencies** and you have other **commitments**. Please contact me in advance about deadlines or test dates that become a problem for you and we'll work something out. Students having good reasons for missing a deadline or test should contact me in advance of the deadline.

Late assignments without prior notice can still be submitted for up 80% of the grade. Missed tests will be taken at the Testing Center. Please contact the Testing Center yourself to schedule times.



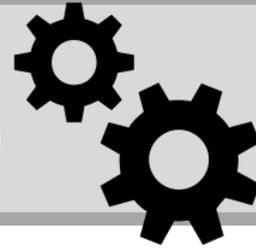
I encourage you to seek **clarification** for grades you do not understand. If you disagree with my assessment, please appeal the grade. This works best for me if you submit your appeal to me first in *writing*, explaining your point, or why you think your answer was correct. After receiving your written request, I will review your documentation and the assignment and decide if a grade change is warranted, and contact you. If your concern remains after that, then I will meet with you. Under no condition will a grade review result in a lowered grade. For grievances about my course policies, and your final grade, please consult the *Carroll College Catalogue Grievance Procedure*.

About Me



I am a full professor in the Philosophy and Catholic Studies Department. I received my PhD. from the University of Notre Dame. I came to Carroll College in 1995. My research interests are in Medieval Philosophy, especially the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, and in applied ethics. I have given papers/presentations on: Thomas Aquinas, Catholic Identity, God's Omnipotence, End of Life Decision-Making, using technology in the classroom. I've been married 35 years and have eight kids (two Carroll grads; one at Carroll right now--maybe you know him?) I am involved in various community organizations in Helena and enjoy visiting historical sites, hiking, and photography

The Technical Stuff...



Course Outcomes

You will develop your understanding of bioethics and its role in decision-making about applying technology to human life

You will study the main bioethical principles and learn how to apply them to specific situations and dilemmas that arise in contemporary medical practices

You will read bioethical discussions by moral philosophers and interact with them

You will develop your own solutions to ethical problems and dilemmas and defend them with ethical principles

Academic Integrity Policy

Practice high standards of integrity! The Carroll College Catalogue states: "Students at Carroll College are expected to have high standards of integrity. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes on examinations or assignments, falsifies college records, or fails to give requested academic information on admission documents is subject to dismissal or other appropriate disciplinary action by the College."

Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, deception, and complicity are wrong and undermine our ability to enjoy and profit from this class. I will investigate all suspected cases of plagiarism, and will penalize all verified instances; the penalty can be as severe as immediate failure in the course.

If you are unsure about whether some actions constitute plagiarism, please ask me.



DISABILITY STATEMENT: Recognizing the unique value of each human being, the Carroll College Mission Statement is in accord with the spirit of both Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The college is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you believe that you may need accommodations based on the impact of a disability, please contact Dr. Kathleen Gilboy, Accessibility Services Coordinator, to discuss your specific needs and disability documentation requirements and to determine a reasonable accommodation plan. You may schedule a meeting through Handshake with Dr. Gilboy. Her office is located in O'Connell Hall room 126 and her extension is 406-447-4376. Learn more at the Accessibility Services webpage: <https://www.carroll.edu/academic-services/accessibility-services>.

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CLASS AND COVID (SPRING 2021)

Even with the COVID vaccine in our sights, all the social distancing and hygiene protocols for the fall will remain in place at Carroll this semester. That means the following:

Class Etiquette

1. We will all wear masks/face coverings during class.
2. No eating in class; this will facilitate mask wearing. You may have a drink during class, but that is not an excuse for not wearing your mask.
3. Classrooms are at 50% capacity; we will all social distance a minimum of 6 feet.
4. We will devise a seating chart; please sit in the same place each day for class to facilitate contact tracing.
5. Please wipe down your desks and seats at the beginning of class and spray desks (don't wipe them) when they leave.

Illness and Attendance

1. If you are ill – stay home.
2. If you give me enough notice, I will set up a camera for you to zoom into the class. It isn't optimal, but it will work as a temporary fix. There is a zoom link on the Moodle page.
3. If I become ill, I will stay home. I will contact the entire class in the morning; I will teach remotely in some fashion (zoom if I am able, or through assignments on Moodle.)
4. If you are or suspect you have the COVID virus, or that have been exposed to someone who has, you should isolate and may be required to quarantine. All absences during the time of illness will be waived and students should continue their course work online, from a distance, as best as their health allows.
5. Remember the procedure if you think you have COVID-19 symptoms: call your primary healthcare provider or the Wellness Center at 406-447-5441 immediately for instructions on how to proceed with ordering a test.
6. Please reach out with any issues you have about COVID and the class.

I appreciate your patience with me and your fellow students. We will get through this!