



BIOETHICS SYLLABUS

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Mark Smillie, Professor of Philosophy

Office: **142 St. Charles**; Phone: **447-5416**; Email: **msmillie@carroll.edu**

Office Hours for Spring 2020:

MW, 3:30-4:30; TTh: 2:30-4:30; Th: 10:00-11:30; Fri, 2:00-4:00; & by appointment.

I will respond to email and phone inquiries within one business day (Saturdays and Sundays are not business days). I will post notifications about the course in the Moodle News Forum. The Moodle Calendar announces assignment deadlines.

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Course Information

Bioethics, PHIL208A, Meets MWF, 8:00-8:50am, 106 O'Connell; 3 credit hours

Reading materials. Please obtain copies of these texts for class:

Deni Elliot. *Ethical Challenges: Building an Ethics Toolkit*. Authorhouse: 2008. ISBN: 1-4343-8802-6.

Available free on the internet at: <http://ethicsunwrapped.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Ethical-Challenges-PDF-1-Elliott-1.pdf>

Robert M. Veatch, *The Basics of Bioethics*. 3rd Edition. Routledge, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-205-76562-1. Required Text. .

IMMANUEL KANT

Two things awe me
most, the starry sky
above me and the
moral law within me.

U|PJOURNEY

Course Description

Bioethics considers the application of moral principles and values to issues involving the use of technology (particularly medical technology) to human life. (Bio = "life.") Students will be introduced to key terms and concepts of bioethics, and the practice of ethical reasoning and ethical decision-making. Being a profession, medicine has its own ethic; and we will consider its contemporary understanding and the ethical problems this ethic has raised. Students will be encouraged to develop and defend their own solutions to these problems. This course should be especially relevant to those who plan medical careers.

Course procedure

Class sessions will work out of reading material assigned from the text and other sources. Students are particularly encouraged to bring copies of their texts to class.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. Previous philosophy courses, especially ethics courses, would help students, but lack these would not hinder success in this class.

Course Elements and Goals

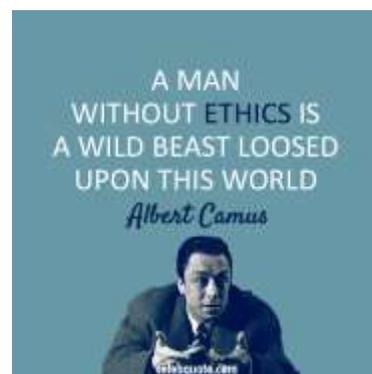
Instructional Objectives

- To identify ethical principles pertinent to the practice of medicine.
- Practice the analysis of ethical principles and learn the standards for such analysis

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Explain and analyze bioethical discussions in text and oral forms
- Describe, employ, examine, and critique bioethical principles and the dilemmas that arise in contemporary medical practices because of them
- Analyze and assess bioethical arguments offered by others and the student themselves
- Develop resolutions to ethical problems and dilemmas using recognizable ethical principles and established patterns of argumentation



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Disclaimer regarding these objectives:

- Students may vary in their competency levels on these abilities.
- Students can expect to acquire these abilities only if they honor all course policies, attend class regularly, complete all assigned work on time and in good faith, and meet all other course requirements and expectations.

Fulfillment and Assessment of the Learning Objectives

Tests 60%

Three semester tests—see calendar for dates. Final comprehensive exam at time scheduled by Registrar. Semester tests worth 15% each of the final grade; the final is worth 15% of the final grade. Test will be composed of matching questions, multiple-choice questions from the textbooks, and essay questions.

Bioethics at the Movies Report 20%

Report on a movie reviewed. Directions under a separate cover.

Bioethics Article analysis and reflection 20%

Analysis of bioethics article. Directions under a separate cover.

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

93-100: A

90-92: A-

87-89: B+

83-86: B

80-82: B-

77-79: C+

73-76: C

70-72: C-

60-69: D

Below 60: F

P/F Grade: D (60)

BIOETHICS SYLLABUS/ SPRING 2020 (A)

Planned Course Calendar

C	DATE	TOPIC
1	Jan 13	First class day. Introduction to the course
	Jan 15	What is ethics? Read Ethical Challenges, Introduction (pgs vii-viii) and Chapter 1.
	Jan 17	Ethical Challenges, Chapter 1, pgs 1-17
	Jan 20	<i>Martin Luther King Day—No class</i>
	Jan 22	Ethical Challenges, “What Ethics Is; What Ethics is Not” Chapter 2 pgs 19- 33.
	Jan 24	Ethical Challenges, “What Ethics Is; What Ethics is Not” Chapter 2 pgs 19- 33.
	Jan 27	Ethical Challenges, Ethical Analysis Read “Systematic Moral Analysis.” Moral Justifications.
	Jan 29	Ethical Challenges, Analysis of lying and deception using the schema from EC. Chapter 4 of Ethical Challenges on your own.
	Jan 31	Test #1 on Ethical Challenges
2	Feb 3	Introduction to Ethics (again). Read Ch1 of Basics of Bioethics (BB)
	Feb 5	History of Biomedical Ethics. Read Ch2 of BB
	Feb 7	History of Biomedical Ethics. Review Ch2 of BB
	Feb 10	Moral Standing: Death, Abortion, Stem Cells and Animals. Read Ch3 of BB
	Feb 12	Moral Standing: Death, Abortion, Stem Cells and Animals. Review Ch3 of BB
	Feb 14	Moral Standing: Death, Abortion, Stem Cells and Animals. Review Ch3 of BB
	Feb 17	Beneficence and NonMaleficence in Medicine. Read Ch4 of BB
	Feb 19	Beneficence and NonMaleficence in Medicine. Review Ch4 of BB
	Feb 21	Beneficence and NonMaleficence in Medicine. Review Ch4 of BB
3	Feb 24	Ethics of Respect for Persons. Read Ch5 of BB
	Feb 26	Ethics of Respect for Persons. Review Ch5 of BB
	Feb 28	Ethics of Respect for Persons. Review Ch5 of BB Last Date for Bioethics at the Movies Report
	Mar 2-6	Fall Break: No Class Midsemester grades are posted on My Carroll on Mar 10
	Mar 9	Care of the Terminally Ill: Avoiding Killing. Read Ch6 of BB
	Mar 11	Care of the Terminally Ill: Avoiding Killing. Review Ch6 of BB
	Mar 13	Care of the Terminally Ill: Avoiding Killing. Review Ch6 of BB
	Mar 16	Finish above/review for test #2
	Mar 18	Test #2
	Mar 20	Care of the Terminally Ill: Incompetent Patients. Read Ch7 of BB
4	Mar 23	Care of the Terminally Ill: Incompetent Patients. Review Ch7 of BB
	Mar 25	Care of the Terminally Ill: Incompetent Patients. Review Ch7 of BB
	Mar 27	Guest Speaker: Matt Brower from Montana Catholic Conference
	Mar 30	Social Ethics of Medicine. Read Ch8 of BB
	Apr 1	Social Ethics of Medicine. Review Ch8 of BB
	Apr 3	Human Control of Life. Read Ch9 of BB
	Apr 6	Human Control of Life. Review Ch9 of BB
	Apr 8	Human Control of Life. Review Ch9 of BB
	Apr 10	<i>Good Friday, no classes</i>
5	Apr 13	<i>Easter Monday, no classes</i>
	Apr 14	(Monday Schedule) No Class—Dr. Smillie is out of town
	Apr 15	No Class—Dr. Smillie is out of town

Apr 17	No Class—Dr. Smillie is out of town. Article Analysis and Reflection is due Sunday night, April 19.
Apr 20	Resolving Conflicts Among Principles. Read Ch10 of BB
Apr 22	Test #3.
Apr 24	SURF—NO CLASS
Apr 27	Resolving Conflicts Among Principles. Review Ch10 of BB
Apr 29	The Virtues in Bioethics. Read Ch11 of BB
May 1	(Last Day of Class)
May 7	Final Exam 8:00-9:45pm (Thurs)



Course Policies and General Information

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Please be on time for class! Please stay alert (and awake!) in class, respect others, and limit private conversations. Please, eat food and use tobacco products some place other than class.

Please attend class regularly (see “Attendance Policies” in the Carroll College Catalogue). I keep attendance regularly and expect to be informed if some legitimate excuse keeps you from attending class.

**“Eighty percent of success
is showing up.”**

-Woody Allen

Please note: I will only grade the assignments of students who regularly attend class. Each student is allowed two unexcused absences.

Submit your assignments electronically on Moodle, observing the deadlines posted there. Students having good reasons for missing a deadline or test should contact me in advance of the deadline. I

reserve the right to penalize late assignments.

Carroll College’s policy on Academic Integrity: “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.

My goal is to grade and/or return all assignments within 2 weeks of their due dates, if not sooner.

Tests and exams should be taken on the dates and place assigned. Tests missed for legitimate reasons should be made up at the Testing Center. Please see <https://www.carroll.edu/academic-services/testing-center> for more information.

If you do not understand a grade you received, please seek clarification! If you want to appeal a grade, please submit your appeal first in writing, explaining your point, or if you think your answer was correct, documenting that belief with evidence from the text. In the case where there is a rubric, please identify the assessments of the rubric that you believe are incorrect and why. After receiving your written request, I will review your documentation and the assignment and decide if a grade change is warranted, and return the test with some written comments. If your concern remains after that, then I will meet with you. Under no condition will a grade review result in a lowered grade.

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

-Thomas A. Edison

Please see my office hours on page one of this syllabus. Everyone is welcome to my office hours to discuss assignments, your progress in the class, bioethical topics, or whatever. Make an appointment if you wish, or drop by during the posted times!

I am a full professor in the Philosophy Department. I received my Ph.D. in 1992, 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 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 almost 35 years and have eight kids (one Carroll grad; two at Carroll right now!). I am involved in various community organizations in Helena and enjoy visiting historical sites, hiking, and photography.

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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, in order 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.

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