

PHILOSOPHY 112
SECTION T1

INSTRUCTOR: COLENA SESANKER
MEETING TIMES: MWF 11:00-11:50 KTRCC D221
CONTACT INFO: csesanker@trcc.commnet.edu

TEXT: BIOETHICS IN A CULTURAL CONTEXT, VINCENT BARRY ISBN# 978-0-495-81408-5 +
VARIOUS PROVIDED TEXTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to a number of issues in bioethics through the lens of human rights. After first introducing basic concepts in human rights, ethics, and religion that are important to bioethics, we will look at some contemporary issues in bioethics including: informed consent and privacy, ownership of tissues and DNA, human embryonic stem cell research, reproductive rights and technologies, human enhancement, and race and genetics.

OBJECTIVES:

To further refine of your own world view.

To develop a sense of the moral issues at stake in these areas of science and technology, and their implications for human dignity, worth, and personhood, understood in a cross-cultural sense

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

3 in-class position papers (10% each), 1 short paper (15%) participation including sporadic quizzes and written responses (10%), Midterm Exam (20%), Final exam (25%)

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:

If there are special circumstances which make it necessary for a student to make up an assignment at a time other than the date scheduled, please be sure to contact me by email or in person *before* the missed assignment so that special arrangements can be made. Make-up writing assignments must be completed within a week of the originally scheduled date. A doctor's note or excuse of equivalent importance must be provided in order to be allowed a make-up exam.

SCHEDULE (subject to further modification)

8/26	Welcome and Intro to course
Week 1: Aug 29, 31, Sept 2:	Introduction to Human Rights and History and scope of Bioethics
Reading: Chapters 1-4 of text	
2 Handouts from the President's council on Bioethics: Dan Dennett and Adam Schulman	
Week 2: Sept 7,9 (No class Monday) Human Rights and Scope of Bioethics continued...	
Handouts: selections from Mill and Kant	
Week 3: Sept 12, 14,16	Informed Consent and Autonomy
Chapters 5,6&7 of text	
Handouts: Nuremberg, Tuskegee and Belmont Report	
Week 4: Sept 19, 21, 23	Informed Consent and Autonomy cont'd...Problems and Dilemmas
Week 5: Sept 26, 28, 30	Abortion and Conceptual Matters at the Beginning of life
Chapters 8,9&10 of text	
Handouts	
WEEK 6: Oct 3,5,7	Assisted Reproduction and Stem Cell Research
Chapters 11,12,15,16 of text	
WEEK 7: Oct 10,12,14. MIDTERM OCT 12th	
WEEK 8: Oct 17,19,21	Conceptual Issues concerning Death
Chapters 17, 18& 19 of text	

WEEK 9: Oct 24,26,28 Chapters 20&21 of text	Assisted Death
WEEK 10: Oct 31, Nov 2,4	Assisted Death Continued
WEEK 11: Nov 7,9,11 Chapter 22 and various handouts	The Right to Healthcare
WEEK 12: Nov 14,16,18	Human Rights and Healthcare continued
WEEK 13: Thanksgiving week. College closed 25 th	
WEEK 14: Nov 28, 30, Dec 2	Organ Donation and Body Ownership
WEEK 15: Dec 5,7,9	TBD
WEEK 16: Dec 12- review, 14 reading day,	
	DECEMBER 16th: FINAL EXAM