PHILOSOPHY 313.92—BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

Instructor: Mike Burgess. Office: Earth Sciences 504, ext 5528
Home phone: 244-5797 Health Science Centre 1138, ext. 6938
Office hours: ES 504; Mon/Wed 2:00-3:30. HSC 1138; Tues/Thurs P.M.

Course Objectives

1. Gain a familiarity with how ethical problems occur in medical settings.
2. Study some ethical theory to aid in deliberations over ethical issues.
3. Learn how to construct ethical arguments to support one's position.
4. Consider in some detail many of the issues in medical ethics.

Grades

The final grade will be a compilation of three papers and a more subjective element based on participation and involvement in class. The first paper will be worth 20%, the second and third 35% each and the participation 10%. All three papers must be handed in order to pass the course. There will not be a final exam. Late papers will be graded down (see section on papers). Papers over one week late will not be accepted.

Papers

The three papers are each to be between five and seven pages in length. This is to be a typed page rate, so no papers under 1000 words or over 1750 words will be accepted. Late papers are graded out of a highest possible grade of A+. Resubmitted papers may be requested. These must be turned in within one week of the day that the papers are handed back. They cannot receive a grade over B+.

The papers need not be typed, but must be neat and easily legible. I expect that they will be proof read and any errors in typing, spelling, grammar, etc. hand corrected. Whether typed or not, ALL PAPERS MUST BE DOUBLE SPACED. Also, please fasten pages together with a staple or paper clip. Title pages and covers are not necessary.

The papers are to be well thought out and supported arguments to a definite conclusion. I also expect you to consider criticisms of your position. They can be an issue-oriented discussion (e.g., informed consent in research, when is abortion permissible, etc.) or a case discussion (e.g., euthanasia and Karen Ann Quinlan, a case of micro-allocation of scarce medical resources, etc). Research outside of class readings is not required. Rather, most of your time should be spent thinking. Do give credit and references when you do use someone else's ideas or words. The emphasis for these papers is on well thought out and supported "wrestling" with the issues together with showing an understanding of opposing positions and their criticisms of your arguments and conclusions.

I suggest the following outline:
I. Statement of the issue or case and your position on it.
II. Argument supporting your position (should make up most of the paper)
III. Criticism(s) of your argument or conclusion.
IV. Response to the criticism in defense of your position.

Books

The House of God by Samuel Shem
Second Life by Stephani Cook
Biomedical Ethics by Mappes and Zembaty
### Reading and Assignment Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Introduction to class</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td><em>The House of God</em></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><em>Second Life</em></td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>M&amp;Z, pp. 1-43; Ethical Theory</td>
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<td>Feb</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Handout, M&amp;Z, pp. 44-61, 71-82; Ethical Theory, Paternalism, informed Consent</td>
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<td>FIRST PAPER DUE</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Reading week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>M&amp;Z, pp. 305-323, 324-340, 157-172; Suicide, Refusal of Life Saving Treatment, Experimentation on Children</td>
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<td>Mar</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>M&amp;Z, pp. 559-586; Micro and Macro-allocation of scarce resources</td>
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<td>SECOND PAPER DUE</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>M&amp;Z, pp. 379-396, 399-342; Treatment of Defective Newborns, Abortion</td>
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<td>Catch-up</td>
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<td>THIRD PAPER DUE, class evaluation</td>
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### Paper Topics

Unless you get permission to do a different topic, please stay within the following guidelines for each paper.

First paper—Paternalism, Informed Consent, Suicide.
Second paper—Medical Experimentation, Refusal of Lifesaving Treatment.
Third paper—Euthanasia, Abortion.