Phil 105, 01  
Spring 2002  
M&W 8:50-10:05 a.  
ICC 115  

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Teaching Assistants: 
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Jennifer Walter: walterj@georgetown.edu  
(Will use office space in ICC 503)  

Course Description:  
This course is an introductory survey of the field of bioethics and philosophical  
approaches to ethics. The course will examine critically the ethical problems in contemporary  
health care. This is an introductory course with three goals. The first goal is to introduce students  
to systematic ethical reflection. The second is to introduce the students to moral problems in  
contemporary medical practice and health policy. The third goal is to assist the student to think  
and write critically about morality.  

Course Requirements:  
This course is a workshop. Everyone's participation is essential to the course. (1) This  
means that all of the reading listed on the course calendar is required as it is essential to class  
participation. The reading will also be important as background for the written assignments and  
the class discussions. (2) It follows that attendance is required. There will be a sign in sheet for  
each class. More than five unexcused absences will mean automatic failure of the course.  
Attendance and participation in class count in your final grade, especially if your average on the  
written work is borderline between two grades. Students will be invited to participate on a  
random basis in each class. (3) Students are also expected to use the discussion board on the  
Course web page as part of his/her participation. (4) There will be two (2) five to ten page  
papers "argument" papers. The papers will each address particular areas of moral controversy in  
health care. These topics, with questions for reflection and guidelines for the papers, will be  
given out at least two weeks prior to the due date. All papers are due on the announced date  
unless a student has a dispensation from the instructor. The papers will be written in groups of at  
least three members. Group assignments and guidelines for the papers will be discussed in class.  
(5) There will also be one (1) five-ten page paper due at the end of the course. This paper will  
be done individually and it will ask the student to reflect on the different philosophical issues
from the course material. The teaching assistants will be available to help in the preparation of each of these papers.

**Evaluation:**

The semester grade will be based on the papers and the class participation. Each group paper will count for twenty percent (20%) of the final grade. The third paper will count for forty (40%) of the final grade. Participation (class discussions, attendance, web page use, quizzes) determines the other twenty percent (20%) of the grade.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Plagiarism will result in the student being reported to the University Honor Council for disciplinary action, according to the Honor system. Plagiarism is defined in the *Georgetown University Student Handbook* as passing off another’s work as your own. If you paraphrase the work of another or use the words of another you must give appropriate citations. False signatures on the sign-in sheet will be viewed as lying and will also be reported to the University Honor Council for disciplinary action. Group projects are to be the work of the group. Work can be shared in any number of ways. The key test is, at the end, every member of the group can claim ownership of the project. If it becomes clear that there is not a common ownership of the paper, and every member of the group’s name appears on the final product, this will be considered an act of dishonesty.

**Course Web Page:**

There is a web page for the course. The address is: [http://campus.georgetown.edu](http://campus.georgetown.edu). You will find the course syllabus, calendar, and assignments on the page. You will also find some standing links to other web sites in bioethics. There is a bulletin board for questions and discussion that I will participate in. Each member of the class is expected to have at least three postings on the bulletin board by semester’s end. These will be part of your participation.

**Teaching Assistants:**

The TAs will have office hours each week. They will be available to help with the course material. They will also read and discuss drafts of your papers in advance of the due dates.

**Office Hours:**

I will have official office hours on line on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 - 9:00 p. (There is a chat room, on the course webpage, under “communication”.) I will also have office hours in my office on Mondays from 11:00 a.- Noon and by appointment. The TAs will announce office hours once the semester begins.

**Required Texts:**


**Calendar Spring 2002**

**Introduction and Methodology**

9 January
Introduction and Overview

14 January
Morality & Ethics: Philosophy and Secular Thought

16 January
Foundational Methods: Utilitarianism, Natural Law, Deontology

23 January
Principlism

28 January
Casuistry, Communitarianism, and Feminist Thought

**Patients and Health Care Providers**

30 January
Physicians and Patients
Veatch, Chapters 1, 3, and 4

4 February
Physicians and Patients
M&D, 56-93

6 February
Patient Self Determination and Informed Consent
M&D, 93-130

11 February
Competence
M&D, 109-117

13 February
Confidentiality
M&D 208-222

20 February
Physicians: conflicts of interest
M&D, 130-148
Handout: Wildes, “Patient No More”

25 February
Family, Nurses, Institutions
M&D, 117-130, 161-208
Death, End of Life Care, and Physician Assisted Suicide

27 February
Film: Dax
Veatch, Chapter 2

11 March
Refusing Treatment, Advance Directives
M&D, 307-335, 350-369
Veatch Chapters 5 & 6

13 March
Refusing Treatment and Advance Directives

First Paper Due

18 March
Physician Assisted Suicide
Film: The Kevorkian File

20 March
Physician Assisted Suicide
M&D 398-444

Genetic Medicine, Reproduction, and Cloning

25 March
Reproductive Technologies, Genetic Engineering,
M&D 527-546, 577-595
Veatch 8

27 March
Film: Making Babies

3 April
Surrogacy and the Family
M&D 546-561

8 April
Human Cloning
M&D 561-577

Research Ethics: Stem Cells

10 April
Ethical Codes, Historical Abuses
M&D 225-273

15 April
Stem Cell Research
Wildes (Handout)

Second Paper Due
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>Justice, Health Care, and Setting Limits</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M&amp;D 610-650</td>
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<td>Veatch, Chapter 7</td>
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<td>22 April</td>
<td>Managed Care</td>
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<td>M&amp;D 650-666</td>
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<td>Film: Dr. Solomon’s Dilemma</td>
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<td>24 April</td>
<td>Managed Care</td>
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<td>29 April</td>
<td>Wrap up</td>
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<td>4 May</td>
<td><strong>Final Paper Due</strong></td>
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(This is the date for a final exam for the course if we had one.)