

Course Code: PHIL5150

Course Title: Topics in Western Philosophy: Persons, Life and Death

Course Outline

Time : W 7-9

Location :

Topics

This course examines alternative concepts of persons and personal identity and how these concepts affect the analysis and evaluation of issues at the beginning and end of life, such as the ontological and moral status of the human embryo, the definition of death, and the nature and ethical significance of potentiality.

Learning activities

Learning activities include readings articles, lectures, class discussion, and essays. It is essential that students come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

1. Lectures: 2.75 hours per week
2. One short essay and class presentation
3. Term paper

Required Texts:

John P. Lizza, ed., *Defining the Beginning and End of Life: Readings on Personal Identity and Bioethics*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009. = (D)

John P. Lizza, ed., *Potentiality: Metaphysical and Bioethical Dimensions*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014. = (P)

Most of the readings can be found in the required texts and are indicated in the course schedule by (D) or (P). Additional required readings are posted on Blackboard and are indicated in the course schedule by (B).

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Short essay and class presentation	1000-3000 word paper and oral presentation in class	20%
Term Paper	3000-5000 words	80%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Recommended learning resources

- Baker, Lynn. R. *Persons and Bodies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Baron, Charles H. "The Concept of Person in Law" in Margery Shaw and Edward Doudera, eds., *Defining Human Life: Medical, Legal, and Ethical Implications* (Ann Arbor: AUPHA Press, 1983): 123-148.
- Becker, L. "Human Being: The Boundaries of the Concept." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 4:4 (1975): 335-359.
- Bernat, J., C. Culver, and B. Gert. "Defining Death in Theory and Practice." *Hastings Center Report* 12:1 (1982): 5-8.
- Cockburn, David, ed. *Human Beings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- DeGrazia, David. *Human Identity and Bioethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Dilman, Ilham. "Sartre and Our Identity as Individuals" in David Cockburn, ed., *Human Beings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991).
- Feldman, Fred. *Confrontations with the Reaper*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Ford, Norman. *When Did I Begin? Concept of the Human Individual in History, Philosophy and Science*. Cambridge: The University Press, 1988.
- French, Peter. "Kinds and Persons," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 44:2 (1983).
- Gervais, Karen Grandstrand. *Redefining Death*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1986.
- Gill, Christopher, ed. *The Person and the Human Mind*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990.
- Goodman, Michael, ed. *What is a Person?* Clifton, NJ: The Humana Press, 1988.
- Haldane, John. "Incarnational Anthropology," *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement* 29 (1991): 191-211.
- Hursthouse, Rosalind. *Beginning Lives*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1987.
- Ingold, Tim, ed. *What is an Animal?* London: Urwin Hyman, 1988.
- Johnston, Mark. "Human Beings," *Journal of Philosophy* 84:2 (1987): 59-83.
- Li, Hon-Lam. "Abortion and Degrees of Personhood," *Public Affairs Quarterly* 11:1 (1997): 1-19.
- Lizza, John P. "Persons and Death: What's Metaphysically Wrong with Our Current Statutory Definition of Death?" *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 18:4 (1993): 351-374.
- Lizza, John P. *Persons, Humanity, and the Definition of Death*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006.
- Lock, M. *Twice Dead*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002.
- Lowe, E. J. *Kinds of Being: A Study of Individuation, Identity and the Logic of Sortal Terms*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1989.
- Machado, C., and D. A. Shewmon, eds., *Brain Death and Disorders of Consciousness*. New York: Kluwer 2004.

- Madell, Geoffrey. *The Identity of Self*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1981.
- McCormick, Richard A. "Who or What is the Prembryo?" *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 1:1 (1991): 1-15.
- McMahan, Jeff. "The Metaphysics of Brain Death," *Bioethics* 9 (1995): 91-126.
- McMahan, Jeff. *The Ethics of Killing*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Noonan, Harold. *Personal Identity*. London: Routledge, 1989
- Olson, Eric T., *The Human Animal*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Parfit, Derek. *Reasons and Persons*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Potts, M., P. A. Byrne, and R. Nilges, eds. *Beyond Brain Death: The Case Against Brain Based Criteria for Human Death*. Dordrecht: Kluwer, 2000.
- President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research. *Defining Death*. Washington, D. C: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1981.
- Rorty, Amelie, ed. *The Identities of Persons*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976.
- Sass, Hans-Martin. "Brain Life and Brain Death: A Proposal for a Normative Agreement," *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 14 (1989): 45-59.
- Shewmon, D. A. "Recovery from 'Brain Death': A Neurologist's Apologia. *Linacre Quarterly* 64:1 (1997): 31-96.
- Shewmon, D. A. "Chronic 'brain death': Meta-analysis and conceptual consequences," *Neurology* 51:6 (1988): 1538-1545.
- Shewmon, D. A. "'Brainstem Death,' 'Brain Death,' and Death: A Critical Reevaluation of the Purported Evidence. *Issues in Law and Medicine* 14:2 (1998): 125-46.
- Steinbock, Bonnie. *Life Before Birth*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Strawson, Peter. *Individuals*. London: Methuen, 1959.
- Taylor, Charles. *Sources of the Self*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- Tooley, Michael. "Abortion and Infanticide," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 2:1 (1972): 37-65.
- Troug, R. D. "Is It Time to Abandon Brain Death?" *Hastings Center Report* 27:1 (1997): 29-37.
- Wiggins, David. *Sameness and Substance*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1986.
- Williams, Bernard. *Problems of the Self*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973.
- Youngner, S. J., R. M. Arnold, and R. Schapiro, eds. *The Definition of Death: Contemporary Controversies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press.
- Zaner, Richard M., ed. *Death: Beyond Whole-Brain Criteria*. Dordrecht, Holland: Kluwer Academic Press, 1988.

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
		Source code: D = Lizza, J. , <i>Defining the Beginning and End of Life</i> ; P = Lizza,		

		J., <i>Potentiality</i> ; B = Blackboard		
1	Introduction and Methodological Issues	John Lizza, Introduction (D) Daniel Callahan, "The Beginning of Human Life" (B) Baruch Brody, "On the Humanity of the Fetus" (B) Mary Anne Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion" (D)		
2	Persons as Immaterial Souls or Minds Persons as Ensouled Bodies	Plato, Selection from the <i>Phaedo</i> (D) Descartes, Selection from <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> (D) Richard Swinburne, Selection from "Personal Identity: The Dualist Theory" (D) Thomas Aquinas, Selection from <i>Summa Theologiae</i> (D) Gil Meilaender "Terra es animata: On Having a Life" (D)		
3	Persons as Human Organisms	Eric T. Olson, "An Argument for Animalism" (D) Bernard Williams, "The Self and the Future" (B)		
4	Persons as Psychological Qualities or Functions	John Locke, Selection from <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> (D) Derek Parfit, "The Unimportance of Identity" (D) Richard Taylor, "The Anatta Doctrine and Personal Identity" (B)		
5	Persons as Psychological Substances	P. F. Strawson, "Persons" (D) E. J. Lowe, "Real Selves: Persons as a Substantial Kind" (D) David Wiggins, Selection from <i>Sameness and Substance</i> (1980) (B)		
6	Persons as Constituted by Bodies Persons as Self-Conscious Beings	Lynn Rudder Baker, "The Ontological Status of Persons," (D) Harry G. Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" (D)		
7	Persons as Relational Beings	G. H. Mead, Selection from Part III of <i>Mind, Self and Society from the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist</i> (D) Clifford Geertz, "The Impact of the Concept of Culture on the Concept of Man" (D) Rom Harré, Selection from <i>Personal Being</i> (D) Tom Kitwood, Selection from <i>Dementia Reconsidered: The Person Comes First</i> (D) Tu Wei-Ming, "Selfhood and Otherness in Confucian Thought" (B)		

8	Potentiality	<p>John Lizza, Introduction (P)</p> <p>Mohan Matthen, "Aristotle's Theory of Potentiality and the Beginning of Human Life" (P)</p> <p>Jennifer McKittrick, "Dispositions and Potentialities" (P)</p> <p>Joel Feinberg, "The Paradoxes of Potentiality" (P)</p>		
9	Potentiality	<p>Edward Covey, "Physical Possibility and Potentiality in Ethics" (P)</p> <p>Eugene Langerak, "Abortion: Listening to the Middle" (P)</p>		
10	Persons at the Beginning of Life	<p>Germain Grisez, "When do people begin?" (D)</p> <p>James T. Eberl, "Thomism and the Beginning of Personhood" (D)</p> <p>James T. Eberl, "Persons with Potential" (P)</p> <p>Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer, "Individuals, humans, and persons: The issue of moral status" (D)</p> <p>Agata Sagan and Peter Singer, "The Moral Status of Stem Cells" (P)</p>		
11	Persons at the Beginning of Life	<p>Nicola Poplawski and Grant Gillette, "Ethics and Embryos" (D)</p> <p>Lynne Rudder Baker, "When does a person begin?" (D)</p> <p>Jeff McMahan, "Potential" (P)</p> <p>Margaret Olivia Little, "Abortion and the Margins of Personhood" (P)</p>		
12	Persons at the End of Life	<p>James L. Bernat, "The Biophilosophical Basis of Whole Brain Death" (D)</p> <p>David A. Jones, "An Unfounded Diagnosis: Revisiting the Medical and Metaphysical Justifications of 'Brain Death'" (D)</p> <p>William A. Wallace, "St. Thomas on the Beginning and Ending of Human Life" (D)</p> <p>Hans Jonas, "Against the Stream: Comments on the Definition and Redefinition of Death" (D)</p>		
13	Persons at the End of Life	<p>Michael B. Green and Daniel Wikler, "Brain Death and Personal Identity" (D)</p> <p>John P. Lizza, "On the Definition of Death" (D)</p> <p>The President's Council on Bioethics, Selection from <i>Controversies in the Determination of Death: A White Paper</i> (D)</p>		
14	Persons at the End of Life	<p>Don Marquis, "Are DCD Donors Dead?" (P)</p>		

		Tom Tomlinson, "The Irreversibility of Death: Metaphysical, Physiological, Medical or Ethical?" (P) John P. Lizza, "On the Ethical Relevance of Active versus Passive Potentiality" (P)		
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Details of course website

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
Name:	Prof. John Lizza (Visiting Professor 2014/15 T2)
Office location:	Room 414
Telephone:	
Email:	

TA	
Name:	
Office location:	
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Academic honesty and plagiarism

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With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.