

PHIL3683
Topics in Applied Philosophy (Topic: Bioethics)

Course Outline

Time :

Location :

Course overview

Bioethics is the study of ethical issues arising in scientific and medical practice. Typical topics include controversies over the boundaries of life (e.g. the permissibility or otherwise of abortion or euthanasia); the allocation of healthcare resources in a context of scarcity or in an emergency; the rights and responsibilities of healthcare workers and scientists; and the nature and value of research integrity.

In this course we will assess a variety of positions commonly taken towards a number of Bioethical issues. Students will be encouraged to think critically about a range of subjects, and to formulate and defend their own opinions on them. By the end of the course students should have a solid grasp of the key controversies in Bioethics and a deepened understanding of the ethical issues posed by modern technologies.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

[to be completed by department]

Topics

Learning activities

Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Presentation	10 minute oral presentation on an approved topic, 5 minutes of questions	30%
Mid-term paper	c.1000 word essay on an approved topic	30%
End of term paper	c.2000 word essay on an approved topic	40%

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Recommended learning resources

Key Readings

1. Campbell, A.V. 2013 *Bioethics: the Basics* London: Routledge
2. Glover, J. 1990. *Causing Death and Saving Lives* Penguin 1990
3. McMahan, J. *The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life*, Oxford: OUP 2003
4. Murray, T.H. 1996. *The Worth of a Child* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press
5. Savulescu, J., ter Meulen, R. and Kahane, G. (eds.), 2011. *Enhancing Human Capacities*, New York: Wiley-Blackwell.
6. Singer, P. 1993. *Practical Ethics*, 2nd edition Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Introduction: the aims of Medicine; the aims of Bioethics			
2	The Badness of Death			
3	The Badness of Death II			
4	The Value of Life I			
5	The Value of Life II			
6	The Wrongness of Killing I			
7	The Wrongness of Killing II			
8	Death vs. Non-existence I			
9	Death vs. Non-existence II			
10	Human Enhancement I			
11	Human Enhancement II			
12	Justice and Healthcare I			
13	Justice and Healthcare II			

Details of course website

For required readings, handouts etc. please see: <https://bioethical.wordpress.com>

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

Teacher	
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TA	
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Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

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.