

Morality & Medicine

HPS 0613

Saturday 12:30pm – 2:55pm

221 Cathedral of Learning

Instructor: **Bryan Roberts**
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Email: bwr6@pitt.edu
Office hours: 11:30-12:30 Friday & Saturday, and by appointment.
Class Website: courseweb.pitt.edu (internet required for this course)

Textbooks: 1. Pence, Gregory E. 1998. *Classic Works in Medical Ethics*
2. Pence, Gregory E. 1990-2004. *Classic Cases in Medical Ethics: Accounts of Cases...* (any edition)

Course Objectives.

In this course, you will develop the skills needed to identify, evaluate, and construct arguments on topics in modern medical ethics. In particular, you will learn to reframe ethical problems in terms of foundational ethical frameworks, evaluate them using good arguments and case studies, and form your own views about them. Our strategy will be to study numerous philosophical arguments on a variety of problems in medical ethics, with the goal of helping you develop your own well-argued views on these topics, and on future ethical questions that you may some day encounter.

Assessment.

35% - Midterm Exams. There will be 3 midterm examinations on class material, which are not cumulative. Only your best 2 out of 3 will count toward your final grade.

30% - Weekly Notebook. You are expected to keep a weekly notebook (described below) on the course readings. Your notebook will be collected and graded twice during the semester. At each collection time, you may submit notebook entries for any 15 out of the 18 readings assigned.

15% - Presentation. Over the course of the semester, each student must give a 7-minute in-class presentation on one of the readings, in which the thesis and argument are described, and a few discussion questions are posed.

20% - Term Paper. A 1000-2000 word term paper is due on Wednesday, April 21st before midnight.

Presentations.

You must sign up for a 7-minute presentation before the second class meeting begins on January 15th, by visiting the [online signup sheet](#). Presentations can only be given on the day scheduled, so be sure you schedule yourself for a day that you know you will be able to come to class.

Presentations should include a description of the problem, and of the author's thesis and main arguments. Be sure to provide any background information you consider relevant. You should include a few discussion questions for the class, and be prepared to give your opinion.

Notebooks, Midterms, Term Paper, and Late Policy.

Notebook 1 must be submitted online through [Turnitin.com](#) before class begins on February 27th. Notebook 2 must be similarly submitted before class begins on April 17th. Each notebook must contain 15 entries, one for any 15 out of the 18 readings assigned during that period. Each entry must contain a thesis, a paragraph describing the argument, and a paragraph describing your reaction, as detailed on the course website.

Midterms will be given at the beginning of class on February 13, March 20, and April 17. They will not be cumulative, but may build on concepts previously learned. Only your best 2 out of 3 will count toward your final grade. The uncounted "freebie" midterm is meant to be used in case of emergency, and it is suggested that you use it wisely.

The term paper must be submitted before midnight on Wednesday, Apr 21st through [Turnitin.com](#). In 1000-2000 words, you will describe an ethical problem, discuss another author's view of the problem, evaluate that author's argument, and finally argue for your own view, as detailed on the course website. 10% of your grade for this paper will be given if you provide a brief paper description, which you must bring at the beginning of class on April 10th.

Please note that *no late course work will be accepted in this course* – no late notebooks, midterms, term papers, or presentations. Since you are expected to add to your notebooks throughout the semester and may submit them anytime before they are due, there is no excuse for not turning them in on time. If you have an emergency on a midterm day, you are free to miss it, and apply your uncounted "freebie" midterm.

Academic Integrity.

No students may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries, cellphones, and programmable calculators. Students will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate

in the official procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity.

Special Needs.

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting special accommodations, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 (Voice or TTD) as early as possible in the term. For more information, visit: www.drs.pitt.edu.

Schedule of Material.

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading Due	Coursework Due
1	Jan 9	Introduction First Order Ethics 1: <i>Overview, philosophical foundations</i>	-	
2	Jan 15	First Order Ethics 2 <i>Philosophical foundations, Reconstructing Arguments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. C. Smart (1956) • Denis (Stanford Encyclopedia) §1-5 • Calhoun (1988) 	Sign up for a presentation before class begins.
3	Jan 23	Aid in Dying 1: <i>Letting Die, Incompetence, & Personhood</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachels (Pence 1998, §1) • Wisbard and Siegler (Pence 1998, §2) • Fletcher 1 (Pence 1998, §3) 	
4	Jan 30	Aid in Dying 2: <i>Euthanasia, Assisted suicide</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brock (Pence 1998, §4) • Motto (Pence 1998, §5) • Callahan (Pence 1998, §6) 	
5	Feb 6	Allocation of Scarce Resources: <i>God Squad, Transplants, exotic procedures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescher (Pence 1998, §18) • Cohen et al. (Pence 1998, §19) • Ubel et al. (Pence 1998, §20)) 	
6	Feb 13	Preferences of Patients: <i>Religion, informed consent, and animals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonsen, Siegler and Winslade (2006, p. 65-82) • Pence (2004, §15) • Singer (Pence 1998, §17) 	Midterm 1
7	Feb 20	Testing and Probability: <i>Intro to probability, base rate neglect, Huntington's, the human</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macklin (Pence 1998, §24) • Pence (2004, §16) • Eddy (1982, p.249-257) 	

		<i>genome</i>		
8	Feb 27	Weighing Difficult Options: <i>Expected utility, Using one baby for another</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browner (2005) • Pence (2004, p.276-285, §14) • Pence (2004, p.285-293, §14) 	Notebook 1 due
9	Mar 6	Abortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thompson (Pence 1998, §12) • Warren (Pence 1998, §13) • Marquis (Pence 1998, §14) 	
10	Mar 13	-	-	<i>Spring Break (No Class)</i>
11	Mar 20	Assisted Reproduction 1: <i>Surrogate mothers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fletcher 2 (Pence 1998, §9) • Krimmel (Pence 1998, §10) • Robertson (Pence 1998, §11) 	Midterm 2
12	Mar 27	Assisted Reproduction 2: <i>Cloning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pence (2004, ch.7), p.141-150 • Pence (2004, ch.7), p.141-146 + p.150-156 • Kass (Pence 1998, §8) 	
13	Apr 3	Access to Medical Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lamm (Pence 1998, §26) • Gutmann (Pence 1998, §27) • Case for the Current Health Care Bill (TBA) • Case Against the Current Health Care Bill (TBA) 	
14	Apr 10	Global Obligation: <i>AIDS, famine</i> + term paper guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohr (Pence 1998, §28) • Pence (2004, ch.17) • Singer (1972) 	Paper Description due
15	Apr 17	<i>Argumentative strategies and reconstructing arguments</i>	-	Midterm 3 , and Notebook 2 due
16	Apr 21 (Wed)	-	-	Term paper due before midnight