

PHIL 1342: BIOETHICS

Instructor: [Maja Sidzińska](#)

Course Description

“Bioethics” is short for *biomedical ethics*, which refers to the study of moral decision-making in the context of biology, medicine, and biomedical technology. Examples of bioethical questions include: What is disease? What rules should guide biomedical practices in the doctor’s office, in the public sphere, or on a global arena? Topics covered in this survey include the nature of disease, informed consent, privacy, medicalization, euthanasia, pregnancy, abortion, surrogacy, eugenics, disability, medical racism, and global health. We will be concerned with how moral principles inform decisions about our lives, our healthcare, and our deaths, and we will consider how these biological aspects of our lives inform what kind(s) of moral principles we might adopt in turn. No previous engagement with philosophy is expected. The course will begin by providing students with select analytical tools and normative approaches that can be used to engage bioethical questions. It is not necessary to purchase any texts for this course.

Reading List (subject to change)

Philosophical Skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Introduction to Philosophy: Logic</i>, Chapter 1, Knachel (2020), “What is Logic?”, pp. 5-132. <i>Introduction to Philosophy: Logic</i>, Chapter 2, Smith (2020) “Evaluating Arguments,” pp. 14-243. <i>Introduction to Philosophy: Logic</i>, Chapter 4, Rodrigues (2020) “Informal Fallacies,” pp. 36-44
Ethical Theories & Bioethical Principles	<p><u>Ethical theories</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Steinbock, Arras, London (2009), “Introduction: Moral Reasoning in the Medical Context”—<u>selected parts only—marked in red; see pdf; pages 1-5; 8-17; 31-35</u>2. Sander-Staudt (2023), “Care Ethics”—<u>selected parts only—marked in red; see pdf</u> <p><u>Bioethical principles</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Vaughn (2020), Chapter 1—<u>selected parts only—marked in red; see pdf; pages 8-13</u>

Defining Disease	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rogers & Walker (2017), "The Line-drawing Problem in Disease Definition" 2. Aftab & Rashed (2020), "Mental Disorder and Social Deviance"
Informed Consent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beauchamp (2011), "Informed Consent: Its History, Meaning, and Present Challenges" 2. Cohen (2014), "The Nocebo Effect of Informed Consent"
Privacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rachels (1975a), "Why Privacy is Important" 2. Siegler (1982), "Confidentiality in Medicine—A Decrepit Concept" 3. Adi & Mathbout (2018), "The Duty to Protect: Four Decades after <i>Tarasoff</i>"
Medicalization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Davis (2010), "Medicalization, Social Control, and the Relief of Suffering" 2. Kaczmarek (2021), "Promoting Diseases to Promote Drugs: The Role of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Fostering Good and Bad Medicalization"
Euthanasia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rachels (1975b), "Active and Passive Euthanasia" 2. Dieterle (2007), Physician Assisted Suicide: A New Look at the Arguments"
Pregnancy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingma (2021), "Harming One to Benefit Another: The Paradox of Autonomy and Consent in Maternity Care" 2. Eichinger & Eichinger (2020), "Procreation Machines: Ectogenesis as Reproductive Enhancement, Proper Medicine or a Step Towards Posthumanism?"
Abortion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marquis (1989), "Why Abortion is Immoral" 2. Jarvis Thomson (1971), "A Defense of Abortion" 3. Saul (2003), "Abortion" in <i>Feminism: Issues and Arguments</i>
Surrogacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anderson (2000), "Why Commercial Surrogate Motherhood Unethically Commodifies Women and Children" 2. McLachlan & Swales (2009), "Commercial Surrogate Motherhood and the Alleged Commodification of Children"

Eugenics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Savulescu (2001), "Procreative Beneficence: Why We Should Select the Best Children" 2. Sparrow (2011), "A Not-So-New Eugenics: Harris and Savulescu on Human Enhancement"
Disability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Silvers (2010), "An Essay on Modeling: The Social Model of Disability" 2. Savulescu & Kahane (2011), "Disability: A Welfarist Approach"
Medical Racism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Byrd & Clayton (2001), "Race, Medicine, and Healthcare in the United States: A Historical Survey" 2. Wilson (2022), "Is Trust Enough? Anti-Black Racism and the Perception of Black Vaccine "Hesitancy""
Global Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brock (2010), "Broadening the Bioethics Agenda" 2. Otenyo (2023), "Covid-19 and Vaccine Nationalism: Managing the Politics of Global Pandemics, an Introduction"