

School of Arts & Sciences Prospectus FALL 2024

Bioethics – PHIL 1342-301

Instructor: Jacqueline Wallis

This course examines ethical questions that arise in the context of the practice of medicine, biomedical research, the development of medical technologies, and the management of public health. These questions concern not only healthcare professionals and their patients, or researchers and their subjects, but also citizens interested in how government policy shapes health outcomes. In addition to standard bioethics topics like abortion, euthanasia, research ethics, and biotechnologies, we will also discuss health-related ethical questions around disability, race, and climate change.

Class Structure for FALL 2024

Use of Class Time:

- This course will meet twice per week for 90 minutes and will consist of a mixture of discussion, activities, and lecture.
- Students will succeed by attending regularly, arriving prepared, and participating actively.

Out-of-class Activities:

- Most days will have 1-2 assigned readings which students will be required to do PRIOR to class.
- Other out-of-class activities may include writing, working on a group project, preparing for exams, and providing feedback to peers on their work.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

note: this outline is subject to possible modifications

Assessment	%	Date <i>*tentative</i>	Description
Participation	15%	-	Active, meaningful participation in class, office hours, peer review, Canvas, &etc.
Group project: Video dialogue	15%	Oct 2*	Create a 10-15 min. video conversation summarizing the main arguments of a bioethics article.
Midterm in-class written exam	20%	Oct 16*	Prompts distributed in advance. Students can use 1-page of their own notes.
Case study write-up	20%	Sep 11 – topics* Nov 25 – outline Dec 9 – final write-up	A multi-part assignment including researching possible cases, peer review of outlines, and a final write-up.
Final oral exam	30%	Individually scheduled on one of the follow days: Dec 12-13, 16-19	A ~15 min. conversation with the instructor, modeled after in class discussions. Grading rubric and prompts distributed in advance. Zoom for extenuating circumstances only.

Essential Course Policies

- All required readings will be posted on Canvas.
- No other equipment or special items are required to engage in this class, and no prior experience with philosophy or ethics is needed.