Bioethics

Prof. Maggie Little
Phil-105 Spring 2007

ICC 115
MW 11:40-12:55
Office Hours:
    Monday & Wednesday, 1-2 pm
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This course will examine a broad range of topics in bioethics, including issues about death, reproduction, medical enhancement, international justice, and public health. There are no textbooks for the course; all readings will be available electronically, either on Blackboard or through the library’s electronic reserve.

Attendance is mandatory; engaged participation is appreciated. There will be four assignments, equally weighted but with credit for improvement across the semester: one 2-3 page paper with a re-write component, a take-home midterm, a 3-5 page paper, and a take-home final.

Jan. 10   Introduction – no reading
Jan. 17   Moral Theory – no reading

**BIOETHICS AT THE END OF LIFE**

Jan. 22   Refusing Life-Sustaining Treatment
Burton, “A Chronicle: Dax’s Case As It Happened”
California Court of Appeals, Second District, *Bouvia v. Superior Court*
US Supreme Court, *Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health*

Jan. 24   Facilitating Autonomy in the Face of Vulnerability
Halpern, “Clinical Empathy”
Halpern, “Autonomy & Concretized Fear”
Zaner, “When You’re Dead Anyway, What’s To Live For?”

Jan. 29   Physician-Assisted Suicide: Individual Rights
Quill, “Death and Dignity: A Case of Individualized Decision Making”
Brock, “Voluntary Active Euthanasia”
United States Supreme Court, *Vacco v. Quill*
United States Supreme Court, *Washington v. Glucksberg*
Jan. 31 Physician-Assisted Suicide: Public Policy
Vellaman, “Against the Right to Die”

Feb. 5 Good Death
Kaufman, And a Time to Die, chapter 4
Byock, Dying Well, chapters 1, 2, 8, & 12

BIOETHICS DURING LIFE

Feb. 7 Enhancement
Juengst, “What Does Enhancement Mean?”
first paper due

Feb. 12 Elliot, The Tyranny of Happiness: Ethics & Cosmetic Psychopharmacology”
DeGrazia, “Prozac, Enhancement, & Self-_creation”

Feb. 14 Davis, “The Faces of Suffering”
Morgan, “Women and the Knife”
Little, “Cosmetic Surgery, Complicity, & Suspect Norms of Appearance”

Feb. 19 no class – President’s Day

Feb. 21 Sexuality
Shulhofer, “Unwanted Sex”

Feb. 26 Roffman, Sex and Sensibility, selections
Feb. 28 no class: midterm take-home exam

March 5 Spring Break
March 7 Spring Break

BIOETHICS & THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

March 14 Stem Cells
Ramsey
Emanuel
Ad hoc group

March 19 Moral Status
Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”
De Grazia, “The Harm of Death, Time Relative Interests, & Abortion”
Dworkin, The Sanctity of Life, selection

March 21 Abortion
Pope John Paul II, “The Unspeakable Crime of Abortion”
Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”
March 26  Little, “Abortion”  
Hursthouse, “Virtue Theory & Abortion”  
Richards, “When One is Enough”  

March 28  Selective Abortion  
Baily, “Why I Had Amniocentesis”  
Kittay & Kittay, “On the Expressivity & Ethics of Selective Abortion for Disability: Conversations with My Son”  
Asch & Wasserman, “Where is the Sin in Synecdoch?”  

April 2  Contract Gestation  
[no reading]  

April 4  Sperm, Eggs, & Moral Responsibility  
Velleman, “Family History”  
Mundy, “It’s All in the Genes, Except When It Isn’t” read either “Confessions of a Sperm Donor” or “Egg Donor Business Booms on Campuses”  

April 9  Easter break – no class  

April 11  Father’s Rights  
Overall, “Frozen Embryos & Father’s Rights”  
Shanley, “Father’s Rights & Mother’s Wrongs?”  

second paper due 4 pm, Friday, April 13 – electronic copy to turnitin, hard copy to Prof. Little’s office  

Bioethics & Public Health  

April 16  Justice & Access to Health Care  
Dwyer, “Illegal Immigrants, Health Care, and Social Responsibility”  

April 18  Influenza Pandemic  
Gostin, “Public Health Strategies for Pandemic Influenza: Ethics & the Law”  
Rolfsen et al, “The Ethics of Personal Stockpiles”  

April 23  Clinical Research on Human Subjects  
“The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment”  
Clinton, “An Apology for the Study Done in Tuskegee”  
CIOMS regulations
April 25   BMJ editorial, “The World’s Most Neglected Diseases”
Dresser, “Wanted: Single, White Male for Medical Research”

April 30   Last class: no readings

Final take-home exam posted at noon on Monday, May 7, and due by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 9th