

## PHIL 165: Bioethics

Fall 2014 TTh 12:30-1:45pm Peabody 216

### Instructor

Dr. David Faraci

Office: 207-D Caldwell Hall

Email: [faraci@email.unc.edu](mailto:faraci@email.unc.edu)

Office Phone: (919) 962-3661

Cell Phone: (732) 233-8867

Office Hours: W 2:30-4:30pm or by appointment (and feel free to drop in if the door is open!)

### General Remarks

Few things raise more pressing and more difficult ethical questions than health care, and the related biological sciences. This course is intended to prepare students to think critically about the numerous questions in these areas that are likely to confront them in their lives, whether as patients, care-takers, and citizens, or as professionals in medical or related fields. Over the course of the semester, we will consider a number of practical issues which raise important ethical questions: Issues such as doctor/patient confidentiality, involuntary medical treatment, and research ethics lead us to examine the purpose of medicine and, more specifically, the potential conflict between the value of benefiting individuals and/or society and the value of respecting individuals' rights to decide how to live their lives. Issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and cloning lead us to consider the nature and value of personhood, and the extent and nature of our obligations to others. In many cases, we will also look at what happens when an issue is viewed from an individualistic vs. a societal perspective, and will also discuss some issues which fit more squarely into the "societal" category, such as whether there is a right to health care.

This course is designed so as to promote class discussion. While I will do some lecturing, my primary intention is for us to discuss—as a group—the arguments presented in the readings, and for you to offer arguments of your own. Some of the best discussion in philosophy is generated by people defending controversial views—even ones that they do not personally hold. So, not only should you feel comfortable defending viewpoints that may not be popular, but I encourage all of you to consider how you might defend viewpoints that are not your own. Along these lines, you should always be mindful of the fact that the positions your classmates take do not necessarily represent what they actually believe.

### Course Materials

Lewis Vaughn, *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

## Course Schedule

The following is a **tentative** schedule. Finalized readings and assignments will be listed on the Course Calendar on Sakai, which will be updated frequently.

Weeks 1-2: Paternalism and Patient Autonomy (Ch. 3)  
Week 3: Truth-Telling and Confidentiality (Ch. 4)  
Week 4: Informed Consent (Ch. 5)  
Week 5: Human Research (Ch. 6)  
Weeks 6-7: Abortion (Ch. 7)  
Week 8-9: Midterm  
Weeks 10: Reproductive Technology (Ch. 8)  
Week 11: Genetic Choices (Ch. 9)  
Weeks 12-13: Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide (Ch. 10)  
Weeks 14-15: Dividing up Health Care Resources (Ch. 11)  
Week 16: Catch-up and Final Review

## Assessment

### **Class Participation and Reading Prompts (30%)**

Each weekend, I will post a prompt regarding the following week's readings. During the semester, you are required to select and respond to **five (5)** of these. Each response should be about **two (2) typed, double-spaced pages**. They are to be submitted, via Drop Box on Sakai, by the **start of class on Thursday**. Responses will be graded on a check-minus, check, check-plus basis, worth 4, 5 and 6 points, respectively. Students will also be assigned up to 5 points for class participation.

### **Midterm Exam (30%)**

There will be an in-class exam (date TBA) at midterm covering all of the material from the first half of the course.

### **Final Exam (40%)**

There will be a Final Exam covering material from the entire semester (with an emphasis on material covered after the Midterm Exam).

## Special Circumstances

If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, physical, etc.), if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

### Honor Code

It is my sincere hope that this section of the syllabus is merely a formality. Do not plagiarize or otherwise make use of unauthorized aid. In all but the most extremely exceptional cases, students found presenting others' work as their own will fail this course. For specifics on the UNC Honor Code, please see

[http://studentconduct.unc.edu/sites/studentconduct.unc.edu/files/2012\\_2013\\_Instrument.pdf](http://studentconduct.unc.edu/sites/studentconduct.unc.edu/files/2012_2013_Instrument.pdf).