

Introduction to Medical Ethics

Baylor University

MEETING

INFORMATION

Instructor: Alli Krile Thornton
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PHI 1309.01
MWF 11:15-12:05am
MH 102

ASSESSMENT

3 Exams (54%)

The format of the exams will be varied and may include multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essay questions that require you to apply the material learned in class.

The exams are not cumulative.

10 Case Papers (CP) (20%)

300-word max per paper.

Each CP must answer all questions for both cases assigned for that day.

There will be 18 Case Paper options. You may select any 10 you want as long as 5 are turned in before Fall Break and 5 are turned in after Fall Break.

You will be graded on insight and thoughtfulness of your answers.

You will receive an automatic 0/100 if you plagiarize or turn in a CP late.

CPs are due within 10 minutes of the start of the class period for which the cases you respond to are assigned.

Your papers must be submitted via Turnitin *and* in paper form to me in class.

2 Audio Case Studies (ACS) (16%)

You will produce both ACSs with a small group.

The small groups will be made of members of your team.

You and your small group will collaborate to produce and record a 5-10 minute philosophical conversation (i.e. something more dynamic than taking turns talking).

You will be graded on mastery of the material discussed, your ability to organize the material, and your group's skill in active participation.

In class, I will describe further details about making Audio Case Studies.

Participation (10%)

Early in the semester, I will divide the class into teams of 5 or 6. The teams will work together throughout the semester.

At the end of the semester, your teammates will grade you. Your participation grade will be partly a function of the grade they give you.

You will lose points for failing to participate respectfully and productively.

You will lose points for poor attendance.

TEXT

Lewis Vaughn, [*Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases, 3rd Edition*](#), (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016). ISBN: 0190250100.

SCALE

100 > A	> 92	92 > A-	> 90	90 > B+	> 88	88 > B	> 82
82 > B-	> 80	80 > C+	> 78	78 > C	> 72	72 > C-	> 70
70 > D+	> 68	68 > D	> 62	62 > D-	> 60	60 > F	> 0

POLICIES

Honor code: Each student is expected to read, understand, and abide by the university's [honor code](#).

Technology: Cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. must be kept out of sight and out of use during class. If you require accommodations that require such technology, please talk to me about it.

Accommodations: If you have a condition that interferes with your ability to participate in this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please contact the [Office of Access and Learning Accommodation](#).

Date	Topic and Reading	Deadlines
PRELIMINARIES		
8/21	Intro	
8/23	About ethics Vaughn 1-8 , 13-17	
8/25	---	
MEANS AND ENDS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE		
8/28	Why do we treat people? KevinMD, “A rude awakening for many medical students” WHO, Definition of Health Boorse, “On the distinction between disease and illness” Engelhardt, “The disease of masturbation: values and the concept of disease.” Case 1, Case 2	
8/30	When are we done treating someone? Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News, “Therapy and enhancement: is there a moral difference?” U.S. Bioethics Counsel, “Distinguishing Therapy and Enhancement” The Hastings Center, “Therapy or enhancement: two hard cases” The Atlantic, “A new way to be mad” Case 3, Case 4	
9/1	---	
9/4	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	
9/6	Does it matter how we heal someone? Vaughn, 34-52 Hippocratic Oath, classical and modern versions Current Affairs, “Now Singer argues it might be okay to rape disabled people” Case 5, Case 6	
9/8	---	
9/11	How do we make difficult choices? (Additional reading TBD) Beauchamp and Childress on moral dilemmas	

- 9/13 **Can we do something that we know has a bad effect?**
 Vaughn 40-42
 Case 7, Case 8
- 9/15 ---
- 9/18 **How should we compose ourselves in decision-making contexts?**
[Beauchamp and Childress on virtue](#)
 Case 9, Case 10
- 9/20 **How should we compose ourselves...? Cont.**
 How to be a Stoic, [“What’s the point of regret?”](#)
 How to be a Stoic, [“Seneca on Anger, Pt. 1”](#)
[Epictetus’ Enchiridion, ch. 1-21](#)
 Case 11, Case 12
- 9/22 **Review**
- 9/25 **Exam #1**

Exam #1

CLINICAL PRACTICES

- 9/27 **Human Research**
 Vaughn 239-253
 Allan Brandt, “Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study” (Vaughn 285-295)
 Nuremberg Code, Declaration of Helsinki, Belmont Report (Vaughn, 259-266)
 Ronald Munson, [“From Vioxx to the ASR Implant”](#)
 NYT, [“Patients lose sight after stem cells are injected in their eyes”](#)
 Case 13, Case 14 (Vaughn 255-256)
- 9/29 ---
- 10/2 **Paternalism and Patient Autonomy**
 Vaughn 81-90
 Terrence Ackerman, “Why doctors should intervene” (Vaughn, 110-115)
 Robert Schwartz, “Autonomy, futility, the limits of medicine” (Vaughn 115-119)
 Case 15, Case 16
- 10/4 **Proxy Decision-making**
 Bouvia vs. Superior Court (Vaughn 123-127)
 AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, “Fundamental Elements of the Patient-Physician Relationship” (Vaughn 127-128)
 Ronald Munson, [“Faith and medicine”](#)
 The Lancet, [“Is it in Charlie Gard’s best interest to die?”](#)
 The Catholic Weekly, [“Charlie Guard will die. But is it murder?”](#)
 Case 17, Case 18
- 10/6 ---
- 10/9 **Truth-telling**
 Vaughn 144-152
 Mack Lipkin, “On telling patients the truth” (Vaughn 159-161)
 Shelly Schwartz, “Is it ever okay to lie to patients?” (Vaughn, 161-164)
 Susan Cullen and Margaret Klein, “Respect for patients, physicians, and the truth” (Vaughn 164-171)
 Case 19, Case 20

10/11	Informed Consent	
	Jay Katz, “Informed Consent—must it remain a fairy tale?” (Vaughn, 213-222)	
	Howard Brody, “Transparency: Informed Consent in Primary Care” (excerpt) (Vaughn, 223-229)	
	Canterbury vs. Spence (Vaughn 235-238)	
	Case 21, Case 22 (Vaughn 207)	
10/13	---	
10/16	Confidentiality	
	Federal guide to privacy of patient information (read only chap. 2, pp. 9-21)	
	James Rachels, “Why privacy is important” (Vaughn 172-177)	
	Mark Siegler, “Confidentiality in medicine, a decrepit concept” (Vaughn 177-180)	
	Tarasoff vs. Regents of the University of California (Vaughn 191-195)	
	Case 23, Case 24	
10/18	---	
10/20	NO CLASS (Fall Break)	5 th CP Due
10/23	Conflicts of Interest	
	NPR, “Drug company payments mirror doctors’ brand-name describing”	
	National Institutes of Health, “Conflicts of interest and medical practice” (Ch. 6 only)	
	Case 25, Case 26	
10/25	---	
10/27	Review & ACS #1	1 st ACS Due
10/30	Exam #2	Exam #2

CURRENT AND FUTURE CLINICAL PROCEDURES

11/1	Euthanasia and PAS	
	Vaughn (625-637)	
	Daniel Callahan, “When self-determination runs amuck” (Vaughn, 658-662)	
	James Rachels, “Active and passive euthanasia” (Vaughn 678-681)	
	Vacco v. Quill (Vaughn 707-709)	
	Ronald Munson, “Jack Kevorkian: Moral Leader or Dr. Death?”	
	Case 27, Case 28	
11/3	---	
11/6	Withholding Treatment; PVS treatment	
	Ronald Munson, “Terri Schiavo”	
	Case 29, Case 30	
11/8	Extending Life	
	Minds, “If you’re alive in 30 years, it’s likely you’ll be alive in 1000 years”	
	The Verge, “Elon Musk launches Neuralink, a venture to merge the human brain with AI”	
	Case 31, Case 32	
11/10	---	

11/13	Genetic Engineering Vaughn, 539-556 Leon Kass, "Implications of pre-natal diagnosis for the human right to life" (Vaughn 560-564) Frida Simonstein and Michael Mashiach-Eizenberg, "Attitudes towards autism spectrum disorders among students of allied health professions" Jeff McMahan, "The morality of screening for disability" (Vaughn, 571-574) Walter Glannon, "Genetic Enhancement" (Vaughn 599-603) TED Talk on Happiness Case 33 (Vaughn 667-558), Case 34 (Vaughn 558-559)	
11/15	---	
11/17	NO CLASS	
11/20	Reading TBD	
11/22	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	
11/24	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	
11/27	Abortion: Reasons Against Vaughn, 309-322 Christopher Kaczor, The Ethics of Abortion, Chs. 5-6 Case 35, Case 36	
11/29	Abortion: Reasons For Judith Jarvis Thompson, "A defense of abortion" (Vaughn, 326-336) Giubilini and Minerva, "After-birth abortion: Why should the baby live?" Roe v. Wade (Vaughn 397-402) Planned Parenthood v. Casey (Vaughn, 402-408) Cases TBD	
12/1	---	
12/4	Review & ACS #2	<i>10th CP Due</i> <i>2nd ACS Due</i>
12/12	Final Exam (Exam #3) Tuesday, December 12, 9:00 am – 11:00 am	<i>Exam #3</i>

*Note that the syllabus is subject to change and likely *will* be changed. You will always be given advance notice if readings will be added or subtracted or if there will be any alteration in due dates or assignments.*