

Ethics and Medicine: PHIL 302-01

Course Information

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Patrick Miller

Contact: pmiller@uwsp.edu

Class Time: N/A (Online)

Office Hours: CCC 416 Wednesday 2:00 – 5:00 pm (Or by appointment)

Classroom: N/A (Online)

Course Description

Medical research and professions have an abundance of ethical conflicts and dilemmas. Even the day-to-day practice of medicine and its relationship with patients are constituted by certain ethical decisions and norms. What are the limits of patient autonomy? How far does the requirement to inform our patients go, and what if this conflicts with confidentiality? How can we act justly and fairly when there are scarce resources? Does the Hippocratic Oath allow for euthanasia? These questions and more will arise in this course.

This course satisfies the Humanities component of the university's General Education Program, which targets the following objectives:

- Reading closely, thinking critically, and writing effectively about texts that reflect on perennial questions concerning the human condition.
- Investigating and thoughtfully responding to a variety of ideas, beliefs or values held by persons in situations other than your own.

Learning Outcomes

- Compare different ethical theories, their foundations, and their application in medical professions.
- Appraise ethical arguments addressing professional responsibilities and medical dilemmas.
- Collaboratively develop interpretations of texts and arguments in response to the texts.
- Use close reading and argumentative writing skills in relation to abstract and dense materials.

Required Texts

The following list is all the required texts for the class. The exact edition is highly recommended, it will be available at the university bookstore, as differences in translation and pagination will make it harder to follow in class. Any reading assignment scheduled but not part of the following list will be available on Canvas or through the university's library.

- Vaughn, Lewis *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*. 5th Edition. ISBN: 9780197609026

Evaluation

In general, all your assignments will be due on Sundays at 11:59pm. The Canvas shell is designed to be completed each week.

Your final grade will be determined by a combination of three different classes of assignments.

- 30% Exams and Quizzes
- 40% Participation and Activities
- 30% Article Analysis

There will be three exams throughout the semester, they will consist of matching and short answer questions. Participation and activities will include any group activities, but it will mainly be graded on your forum participation each week. Early on, I will post a sign-up sheet for students to give in-depth responses to the reading for the week. Those students will post their response on the discussion board, all other students will be expected to respond and participate in the discussion of the reading. You will be expected to participate every week on the discussion board, but you only need to sign up for two in-depth responses. Lastly, there will be multiple reading questions that I will ask all students to do. There will be in-depth responses to the readings and topics we cover. To answer these questions thoroughly, you should expect to write about 2-3 pages. Some of these assignments can be completed in other formats if you wish, like creating a video or audio file. Send me a message if you are considering doing something different. The specifics of each assignment will be given ahead of time on Canvas.

Grade Scale:

Unless stated otherwise, all work will be graded according to the following scale:

93-100 = A 90-92.9 = A- 87-89.9 = B+ 83-86.9 = B 80-82.9 = B- 77-79.9 = C+
73-76.9 = C 70-72.9 = C- 67-69.9 = D+ 60-66.9 = D below 60 = F

Resources: Online resource for MLA, Chicago, or other citations and other writing tip, [Purdue Online Writing Laboratory](https://owl.purdue.edu/online-writing-laboratory/).¹

Late Work and Excused Absences

Late work will not be accepted unless your absence is excused. If you are aware that you will miss class or be unable to turn in an assignment on time, then please email or talk to me, so we can find a fair solution.

A grade of "I" is given only in the cases of a medical or family emergency and, in conjunction with university policy, only when a small portion of the student's work is incomplete and only when the student is otherwise earning a passing grade.

¹ <https://owl.purdue.edu/online-writing-laboratory/>

Attendance

Attendance is not part of your final grade. However, I will take attendance prior to every class for record keeping purposes.

Academic Integrity Policy

I adhere to a strict policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc.). Any questions that you may have regarding academic integrity should be resolved before you turn in course materials to me. Information can be found in UWSP Chapter 14, available at: "<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>". The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. In addition, all infractions will be reported to the university.

Syllabus Subject to Change

This syllabus is informational in nature and is not an express or implied contract. It is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, as a result of any circumstance outside the University's and your professor's control.

General Degree Requirements

This course satisfies the Humanities component of the university's general education program.

Student Support Resources

[Academic and Career Advising Center \(ACAC\)](#)

209 Collins Classroom Center (CCC)

1801 4th Ave.

Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-346-3226

acac@uwsp.edu

[Counseling Center](#)

Delzell Hall

910 Fremont Street

Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-346-3553

counsel@uwsp.edu

Mental Health Resources for Students

[Mantra Health](#)

Teletherapy & Telepsychiatry

- Diverse therapists
- After-hours availability
- Medication evaluations & prescriptions

[You@UWSP](#)

Self-help & Well-being Platform

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services

24/7 Mental Health Support:

- Call or text: 888-531-2142
- [Start a chat session](#)
- Crisis care available

[Dean of Students Office](#)

2100 Main Street

Old Main, Room 212

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897

Phone: 715-346-2611

DOS@uwsp.edu

*Equal Access and Disability Accommodations

If you have a condition that may impact your learning and/or participation in course activities, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC). The DRC will engage in an interactive process with students and identify appropriate academic accommodations and auxiliary services in accordance with the University's legal obligations. Instructors, students, and DRC staff work collaboratively to establish any necessary adjustments or supports. Accommodations are rarely applied retroactively so it is vital that students make timely requests.

Please let me know if you have questions. The DRC is located in 108 Collins Classroom Center and can be reached at 715/346-3365 and drc@uwsp.edu.

[Student Health Service](#)

Delzell Hall

910 Fremont St

Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-346-4646

Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC)

The Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) helps students in all disciplines become more effective, confident learners. We believe all learners benefit from sharing work with knowledgeable, attentive tutors. The TLC offers four tutoring services:

- Academic Coaching: Build skills in studying, time management, test-taking, online learning, and more.
- Course Content: Practice problems, deepen understanding, and prepare for exams in natural resources, STEM, World Languages, and more.
- Reading/Writing: Brainstorm and refine papers, essays, lab reports, citations, résumés, scholarship applications, personal writing, and more.
- Tech Essentials: Develop computer literacy and learn to use UWSP-related applications such as Canvas, Microsoft 365, and Zoom.

To make an appointment, students can self-schedule using Navigate, contact us at tlctutor@uwsp.edu or 715-346-3568, or stop into CCC 234.

Stevens Point Campus Tutoring-Learning Center

234 Collins Classroom Center (CCC)
1801 4th Ave.
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-346-3568
tlctutor@uwsp.edu

Marshfield Campus Tutoring-Learning Center

Library
2000 W. 5th Street
Marshfield, WI 54449
715-898-6036
roleary@uwsp.edu

Wausau Campus Tutoring-Learning Center

Library
518 S. 7th Ave
Wausau, WI 54401
715-261-6148
lorandal@uwsp.edu

Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of

academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not dominate any discussion.
- Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as ☺ or / can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Share tips with other students.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 (Week of 9/4)

9/6 Syllabus, Chapter 1 – 3-18, 24-25, 29-33

Week 2 (Week of 9/11)

9/11 Chapter 2 – 38-44, 45-53

Week 3 (Week of 9/18)

9/18 Moral Theory Reading (Read and answer questions about only one (Mill, Kant, or Aristotle) Chapter 3 – 97-104

Week 4 (Week of 9/25)

Dworkin "Paternalism," Goldman "The Refutation of Medical Paternalism," Emanuel and Emanuel "Four Models of the Physician-Patient Relationship"

Week 5 (Week of 10/2)

Chapter 4 – 170-173, Lipkin "On Telling Patients the Truth," Schwartz "Is it Ever OK to Lie to Patients?," Rachels "Why Privacy Is Important"

Week 6 (Week of 10/9)

Chapter 5 – 200-206, Review and Exam

Week 7 (Week of 10/16)

Faden and Beauchamp "The Concept of Informed Consent," Katz "Informed Consent—Must It Remain a Fairy Tale?"

Week 8 (Week of 10/23)

Chapter 6 – 238-247, *The Nuremberg Code*, "The Belmont Report"

Week 9 (Week of 10/30)

Hellman and Hellman "Of Mice but Not Men: Problems of the Randomized Clinical Trial," Angell "The Ethics of Clinical Research in the Third World," Brody "Ethical Issues in Clinical Trials in Developing Countries"

Week 10 (Week of 11/6)

Chapter 7 – 305-316, Jarvis Thomson "A Defense of Abortion," Marquis "Why Abortion is Immoral"

Week 11 (Week of 11/13)

English "Abortion and the Concept of a Person," *The Abortion Divide* (Frontline Documentary), Review and Exam

Week 12 (Week of 11/20)

Thanksgiving Break

Week 13 (Week of 11/27)

Chapter 10 – 551-560, *Being Mortal* (Frontline Documentary), Quill "Death and Dignity," Carr "Legalizing Assisted Dying Is Dangerous for Disabled People"

Week 14 (Week of 12/4)

Chapter 11 – 631-642, Daniels "Is There a Right to Health Care," Buchanan "The Right to a Decent Minimum of Health Care," Schneider, Sarnak, Squires, et al. "Mirror, Mirror 2017"

Week 15 (Week of 12/11)

Chapter 13 – 725-737, Root "Racial Profiling in Medicine"

Finals Week

12/20 Final Exam (Due at 11:59)