

SUMMER 2024  
PHILOSOPHY 302—01/502--01  
ETHICS AND MEDICINE

**Professor:**

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.

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<http://charlesjhorn.webstarts.com/index.html>

**Course Information:**

Administered through Canvas

Zoom Office Hours: By Appointment

“IN NOTHING DO MEN MORE NEARLY APPROACH THE GODS  
THAN IN GIVING HEALTH TO MEN.”  
SENECA

**Course Description:**

Ethics is the philosophical study of the nature of right and wrong, virtue and vice, and good and evil. Biomedical ethics is a narrower branch of ethics, and in particular applied ethics, focusing on the morals which guide the medical profession. Paternalism, autonomy, beneficence, utility, and justice are a few of these guiding principles. One of the most intriguing parts about this field is that these guiding principles often come into conflict with one another. How should we adjudicate such conflicts? This course will provide a systematic analysis of these topics through the lens of a constellation of issues and cases prevalent in the medical field.

Some of the questions to be examined in this course will be:

- (1) What are the ethical principles that govern the health care profession?
- (2) How do we make moral judgments and moral arguments?
- (3) What is the relationship between paternalism and patient autonomy?
- (4) What are the limitations of truth-telling, confidentiality, and informed consent?
- (5) Is medical research on humans ethically permissible?
- (6) What are the philosophical issues concerning abortion and euthanasia?
- (7) Is there a “right” to health care?

This is a slash course with both undergraduate (PHIL 302) and graduate level (PHIL 502) options. Be sure to follow the assignment structure outlined below for the way you have registered for the course.

**Text:**

For Rental:

*Bioethics: Principles, Issue, and Cases 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.*

Lewis Vaughn

Oxford University Press

ISBN #: 978-0-19-760902-6

**Course Goals:**

By carefully examining the guiding moral principles which guide the medical profession, students will:  
Students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental principles in medical ethics.
2. Practice reading and interpreting philosophical and legal texts from both historical and contemporary sources to better understand the medical profession.
3. Develop critical thinking skills by engaging, analyzing, and evaluating texts to write well and argue persuasively.

**Intellectual Property Notice:**

Lecture materials and recordings for Philosophy 302 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

**Expectations:**

Students are expected to check into Canvas daily in order to check for class announcements, complete assignments, use the discussion board, etc.

Please follow the checklist to best increase the chances for success in the class.

1. In order to provide maximum flexibility to student schedules, all lectures have been pre-recorded and uploaded to Canvas. These are not meant as a replacement for reading the material and taking notes on your own. Please do not share these with anyone outside of the class. See the "Intellectual Property Notice" in the syllabus.
2. Take advantage of office hours. See Canvas "Announcements" tab for full invitation URL and password to join. Please note that a waiting room is enabled so you may have to wait to join in case I am with another student.

## Grading Criteria:

### A. PHIL 302 Option

Final grades will be based upon (1) *four exams* worth 20 points each, (2) *two outlines* worth 5 points each, (3) *two essays* worth 5 points each. There is also (4) an optional extra credit essay associated with the film, *You Don't Know Jack*, where students must complete an outline and draft of the essay, worth 5 points. Finally, (5) there is an optional extra credit quiz about studying philosophy further at UWSP.

1. Exams—	80 Points Total
2. Outlines—	10 Points Total
3. Essays—	10 Points Total
4. <u>Extra Credit—</u>	<u>10 Points</u>
5. Total—	110 Points

- (1) Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Exams will be taken from material given in both the textbook and the lectures posted to Canvas. Exams have a time limit of 75 minutes. You may use your notes and text on the exams, but you may not receive help from other peers. Because of the limitations on time, my suggestion is to read the text and take notes *before* opening the exam.
- (2) There are four essay prompts in the class. Students may select any **two** of those prompts to work through the process of writing a philosophical essay. The first step of this process is to outline the essay by clearly stating your thesis, providing one argument (with evidence and a conclusion that follows from that evidence), and addressing one objection to your own argument. In the event that students complete more than two outlines, only the first two will be graded.
- (3) There are four essay prompts in the class. Students may select any **two** of those prompts to work through the process of writing a philosophical essay. The second step of this process is to take the outline and write an essay. *Essays should be one single spaced page.* In grading your essays, I will consider whether you have a sufficient understanding of the relevant texts, have answered the questions *clearly, concisely, and thoroughly*, and have argued your position persuasively. A full rubric will be provided with each prompt. If students complete more than two essays, then only the first two will be graded.
- (4) **OPTIONAL:** Students may earn up to 5 extra credit points to their overall grade by writing an additional essay on the film, *You Don't Know Jack*. You may access it and watch it anytime during the course term (I would recommend reading Chapter 10 of the text first though). There will be a link to watch the film posted on Canvas. In one single spaced page, answer the following question in relation to the film: Was it morally praiseworthy or blameworthy for Jack Kevorkian to help his patients die? Why? Why not? The submission must include an outline of the essay and a finalized draft of the paper. The essay must be submitted as a PDF to Canvas by June 14, 2024 at 11:59pm.
- (5) **OPTIONAL:** Students may earn up to 5 extra credit points to their overall grade by completing a short quiz about studying philosophy at UWSP. The quiz must be completed by June 14, 2024 at 11:59pm.

## B. PHIL 502 Option

Final grades will be based upon (1) *four exams* worth 20 points each, (2) *one Zoom Presentation* worth 10 points, (3) *one essay* worth 10 points. There is also (4) an optional extra credit essay associated with the film, *You Don't Know Jack*, where students must write an essay worth 5 points.

1. Exams—	80 Points Total
2. Zoom Presentation—	10 Points
3. Essays—	10 Points Total
4. <u>Extra Credit—</u>	<u>5 Points</u>
5. Total—	105 Points

- (1) Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Exams will be taken from material given in both the textbook and the lectures posted to Canvas. Exams have a time limit of 75 minutes. You may use your notes and text on the exams, but you may not receive help from other peers. Because of the limitations on time, my suggestion is to read the text and take notes *before* opening the exam.
- (2) Students must record a short (15 minute) presentation on any chapter not covered in the syllabus summarizing the main philosophical, medical, and ethical issues at stake. The presentation will be posted for other students to view so undergraduates are the intended audience. The presentation must be emailed to Professor Horn by June 4, 2024.
- (3) There are four essay prompts in the class. Students may select any **two** prompts and write a philosophical essay. *The essay should be 4-5 single spaced pages.* In grading your essay, I will consider whether you have a sufficient understanding of the relevant texts, have answered the questions *clearly, concisely, and thoroughly*, and have argued your position persuasively. A full rubric will be provided with each prompt. If students complete more than one essay, then only the first will be graded.
- (4) OPTIONAL: Students may earn up to 5 extra credit points to their overall grade by writing an additional essay on the film, *You Don't Know Jack*. You may access it and watch it anytime during the course term (I would recommend reading Chapter 10 of the text first though). There will be a link to watch the film posted on Canvas. In one single spaced page, answer the following question in relation to the film: Was it morally praiseworthy or blameworthy for Jack Kevorkian to help his patients die? Why? Why not? The submission must include an outline of the essay and a finalized draft of the paper. The essay must be submitted as a PDF to Canvas by June 14, 2024 at 11:59pm.

Canvas will automatically calculate and update grades as the semester progresses. To determine your current grade in the class, take the score in the “Total” column and divide it by 100. If there are still remaining assignments, add the remaining points possible to your points earned to see the best-case scenario for your grade. Then use the grading scale below. The goal for the class is to try to earn as many points as possible.

Overall grades in the course will be based upon the following scale.

“Pass” Range			“Fail” Range	
(70—100 Points)			(<70 Points)	
“A” Range	“B” Range	“C” Range	“D” Range	“F” Range
	B+ (87—89)	C+ (77—79)	D+ (67—69)	F (<60)
A (94—100)	B (84—86)	C (74—76)	D (60—66)	
A- (90—93)	B- (80—83)	C- (70—73)		

### **Academic Integrity:**

Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism or helping others to commit these acts will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in severe disciplinary action including, but not limited to, failure of the student assessment item or course, and/or dismissal from the University.

Academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise. This definition includes unauthorized communication of information during an academic exercise.
- 2) Fabrication and Falsification: Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.
- 3) Multiple Submissions: The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work for credit (including oral reports) more than once without authorization.
- 4) Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one’s own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source). The sole exception to the requirement is when the ideas, information, etc., is common knowledge.
- 5) Complicity in Academic Dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

### **Disability Information:**

Students with disabilities should register with the ADA coordinator on campus and let me know at the beginning of the semester. I would be happy to accommodate you in any way that I can. Just let me know. More information can be found at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

## **Course Schedule:**

### Part I: Principles and Theories

- May 28 Chapter 1: Moral Reasoning in Bioethics  
May 29 Chapter 2: Bioethics and Moral Theories  
May 30 Virtue Ethics, Deontology, Consequentialism (PowerPoint on Canvas)  
May 31 Exam I (Available from 12:00am on May 30—11:59pm on May 31)  
Essay I Outline (Available from 12:00am on May 30—11:59pm on May 31)  
Essay I Due (Available from 12:00am on May 30—11:59pm on May 31)

### Part II: Medical Professional and Patient

- June 3 Chapter 3: Paternalism and Patient Autonomy  
June 4 Chapter 4: Truth-Telling and Confidentiality  
June 5 Chapter 6: Human Research  
June 6 Exam II (Available from 12:00am on June 5—11:59pm on June 6)  
Essay II Outline (Available from 12:00am on June 5—11:59pm on June 6)  
Essay II Due (Available from 12:00am on June 5—11:59pm on June 6)

### Part III: Life and Death

- June 7 Chapter 7: Abortion  
June 10 Chapter 10: Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide  
June 11 Exam III (Available from 12:00am on June 10—11:59pm on June 11)  
Essay III Outline (Available from 12:00am on June 10—11:59pm on June 11)  
Essay III Due (Available from 12:00am on June 10—11:59pm on June 11)

### Part IV: Justice and Health Care

- June 12 Chapter 11: Dividing Up Health Care Resources  
June 13 Chapter 12: Pandemic Ethics  
June 14 Exam IV (Available from 12:00am on June 13—11:59pm on June 14)  
Essay IV Outline (Available from 12:00am on June 13—11:59pm on June 14)  
Essay IV Due (Available from 12:00am on June 13—11:59pm on June 14)