CHV 333/ Phi 344: Bioethics: Clinical and Population-Level
Spring semester 2015/16

Instructor:
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Brief Course Description:
This seminar aims to introduce you to a range of philosophical debates in clinical and population-level bioethics. Among the topics in clinical bioethics that we will discuss are

- The ethics of killing and the badness of death
- Abortion
- Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia
- Pre-commitment in bioethics
- Genetic enhancement.

In population-level bioethics, questions we will discuss include

- The measurement and valuation of health
- Cost-effectiveness and disability-discrimination
- Treatment vs prevention in the fight against HIV/AIDS
- Health inequalities and justice
- Personal and social responsibility for health
- Paternalism, nudges, and incentives
- Standards of care in clinical trials in the US and abroad.

Course Requirements and Grading
This course will be held in a seminar format. Seminars will take place Mondays, 1:30-4:20pm in 101 Marx Hall. You will submit two short response papers (4-5 double-spaced pages) during the semester (30% of your grade); the first of these papers is due on February 28, the second on April 17. In addition, each student will serve as lead-discussant for one seminar meeting during the semester (10% of your grade). A further 30% of your grade will be for oral participation in seminars. The final 30% of your grade will be determined by a final exam.

Readings
Readings should be done before the seminar indicated. There are two required books for this course:


All other readings will be posted to the course website. In addition, you are strongly encouraged to consult the following online resources to learn how to read philosophical texts and to write philosophy papers:

http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html
http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**

**February 1. Session 1: Introduction to Consequentialist and Non-Consequentialist Ethical Theory**

**February 8. Session 2: The Ethics of Killing**

**February 15. Session 3: Abortion**

**February 22. Session 4: Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia**

Further reading:

**Feb 28: First response paper due at 10pm.**

**Feb 29. Session 5: Pre–Commitment in Bioethics**


Further reading:

**March 7. Session 6: Genetic Enhancement**


Further reading:

**SPRING BREAK**

**March 21. Session 7: Deciding Whom to Help – Healthy vs. Disabled**


Further reading:
March 28: Session 8: Treatment vs Prevention in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

1. Dan Brock and Dan Wikler, “Ethical Challenges In Long-Term Funding For HIV/AIDS”, Health Affairs 28(6), 2009

Further reading:

April 4. Session 9: Health Inequalities and Justice


April 11. Session 10: Personal and Social Responsibility for Health


Further reading:

April 17: Second response paper due at 10pm.

April 18. Session 11: Paternalism, Nudges, and Incentives


Further reading:


**April 25. Session 12: Standards of Care in Clinical Trials in the US and Abroad**


Further reading:


**Date TBD: Final Exam**