

PL277

## Medical Ethics

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**Seminar Leader**

Sinem D Kılıç

**Email**

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**Course Times**

Thursdays, 10 am–1 pm

**Office Hours**

By appointment only

*“Illness is the night-side of life, a more onerous citizenship. Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use only the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place.”*

—Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor*

### Course Description

The decisions taken in medical treatment are often the subject of complex philosophical and moral debate, drawing on concepts and principles that long predate new technological developments.

This course addresses the ethical basis of medical research and practice, including distinct ideas of autonomy, health, well-being, and disease. We cover some of the most prominent and fraught issues that have arisen in the legal regulation of medical care, such as euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide, cultural and historical differences surrounding questions of reproduction, and issues of information-flow, informed consent, privacy, truth-telling and confidentiality, as well as questions of medical racism, social justice and rights to healthcare, human research, genetic enhancement, and the ethical dilemmas that arise during global pandemics as we still experience them today.

### Course Readings

All required readings will be available in a Course Reader (print version), which will be distributed in the library. All additional readings will be available via Google Classroom.

\* Recommended Book: Lewis Vaughn (ed) (2020) *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*, Fourth Edition, New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press (ISBN: 9780190903268)

## Requirements

### Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

### Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, one absence from a once-per-week course should not affect the participation grade or require documentation. More than one absence (that is an absence from a once-per-week session of 180 minutes) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course. Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

### Required Texts

Generally, there will be some compulsory and some recommended readings for each session. These are mainly selected contributions by different authors, many of them from *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*. All students are responsible for preparing all the required readings in advance of each week (with the exception of the first session). In addition to the printed course reader, a digital reader will be provided at the beginning of the semester via Google Classroom. However, all texts should be physically printed at best, and be available for reference during our course time. The recommended readings, also uploaded to our Google Classroom, are not mandatory, but highly encouraged.

## **Assessment**

### **Participation**

**Students should arrive to each class on time and prepared.** Being prepared means

- (1) having completed the assigned reading,
- (2) bringing to class a non-electronic copy of the assigned reading, and
- (3) being ready to initiate and to contribute to discussion.

Engagement in class discussion should be regular as well as productive; quantity alone will not favorably affect the participation grade.

### **Class Presentations**

**Every student is expected to present on one text as per a sign-up sheet online.**

Each presentation of about 15 minutes will examine key passages of their choice, ideally using either PowerPoint or a handout for the class. You are encouraged to write your midterm or final paper on the text that you present on. In this manner, your essay can expand on the insights and questions that arose from your class contribution and the discussion that follows your readings.

### **Writing Assignments**

There will be two principal assignments over the course of the term: **a midterm essay of 2000 words** due at 23:59 on **March 19** and **a final essay of 3000 words** due at 23:59 on **May 19 for graduating students** and 23:59 on **May 21** for other students. All essays are to be **submitted electronically via Google Classroom.**

### **Policy on Late Submission of Papers**

Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

### **Grade Breakdown**

Class participation: 25%

Presentation: 20%

Midterm essay (2000 words): 25%

Final essay (3000 words): 30%

## Course Schedule

# Medical Ethics


SESSION / DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
1 / Feb 2, 2023	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
2 / Feb 9, 2023	<b>MORAL REASONING &amp; MORAL PRINCIPLES</b>	Chapter 1 “Moral Reasoning in Bioethics,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , ed. by Lewis Vaughn, New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press 2020, 3–33
3 / Feb 16, 2023	<b>MORAL THEORIES</b>	Chapter 2 “Bioethics and Moral Theories,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 34–63
4 / Feb 23, 2023	<b>AUTONOMY &amp; PATERNALISM</b>	(1) Chapter 3 “Paternalism and Patient Autonomy,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 97–110 (2) Gerald Dworkin, “Paternalism,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 111–120
5 / Mar 2, 2023	<b>TRUTH-TELLING &amp; CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	(1) David C. Thomasma, “Telling the Truth to Patients,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 187–191 (2) Mack Lipkin, “On Telling Patients the Truth,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 191–193 (3) Shelly K. Schwartz, “Is It Ever OK to Lie to Patients?,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 193–196 (4) Susan Cullen & Margaret Klein, “Respect for Patients, Physicians, and the Truth,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 196–203
6 / Mar 9, 2023	<b>PATIENT AUTONOMY &amp; INFORMED CONSENT</b>	(1) Chapter 5 “Informed Consent,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 228–240 (2) Robert J. Levine, “Informed Consent: Some Challenges to the

SESSION / DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
		<p>Universal Validity of the Western Model,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 261–267</p> <p>(3) M. Kuczewski / P.J. McCrudden, “Informed Consent: Does It Take a Village? The Problem of Culture and Truth Telling,” <i>Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics</i> 10(1), 2011, 34–46</p>
7 / Mar 16, 2023	<b>PANDEMIC ETHICS: COVID-19</b>	<p>(1) Julian Savulescu, “Good Reasons to Vaccinate: Mandatory or Payment for Risk?,” <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i> 47(2), 2020, 78–85</p> <p>(2) Alberto Giubilini, “Vaccination Ethics,” <i>British Medical Bulletin</i> 137(1), 2021, 4–12</p> <p>(3) Julian Savulescu / Ingmar Persson / Dominic Wilkinson, “Utilitarianism and the Pandemic,” <i>Bioethics</i> 34, 2020, 620–632</p>
<b>Sunday, Mar 19, 2023</b>	<b><i>Midterm Papers Due</i></b>	
8 / Mar 23, 2023	<b>ABORTION</b>	<p>(1) Judith Jarvis Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 357–367</p> <p>(2) Don Marquis, “Why Abortion Is Immoral,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 367–379</p> <p>(3) Mary Anne Warren, “On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 383–394</p> <p>(4) Marianne Le Nabat, “Is Abortion Candy?” (online)</p>
9 / Mar 30, 2023	<b>HUMAN RESEARCH</b>	<p>(1) Marcia Angell, “The Ethics of Clinical Research in the Third World,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 328–332</p> <p>(2) Baruch Brody, “Ethical Issues in Clinical Trials in Developing</p>

SESSION / DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
		<p>Countries,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 332–336</p> <p>(3) “The Nuremberg Code,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 291–292</p> <p>(4) “Declaration of Helsinki,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 292–295</p>
Apr 3 – Apr 7, 2023	SPRING BREAK 	
10 / Apr 13, 2023	<b>GENETIC ENHANCEMENT</b>	<p>(1) Chapter 9 “Genetic Choices,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 562–582</p> <p>(2) Walter Glannon, “Genetic Enhancement,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 622–627</p> <p>(3) Julian Savulescu, “Genetic Interventions and the Ethics of Enhancement of Human Beings,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 627–636</p> <p>(4) Nathaniel Hawthorne, “The Birth Mark”</p>
11 / Apr 20, 2023	<b>REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY</b>	<p>(1) Peter Singer, “IVF: The Simple Case,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 460–463</p> <p>(2) Elizabeth S. Anderson, “Is Women’s Labor a Commodity?,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 514–526</p> <p>(3) Leon R. Kass, “The Wisdom of Repugnance,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 535–550</p>
12 / Apr 27, 2023	<b>RACE &amp; MEDICINE</b>	<p>(1) Allan M. Brandt, “Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 314–326</p> <p>(2) Angus Chen, “Is It Time to Stop Using Race in Medical</p>

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13 / May 4, 2023	EUTHANASIA & PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE	<p>Research?,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 326–328</p> <p>(3) Michael Yudell et al., “Taking Race Out of Human Genetics. Engaging a Century-Long Debate about the Role of Race in Science” <i>Science</i> 351(6273), 2016, 564–565</p> <p>(4) Ruqaiijah Yearby, “Race Based Medicine, Colorblind Disease: How Racism in Medicine Harms Us All,” <i>The American Journal of Bioethics</i> 21(2), 2021, 19–27</p> <p> * Documentary Film <i>How to Die in Oregon</i> (2011)</p> <p>(1) Chapter 10 “Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 648–665</p> <p>(2) Daniel Callahan, “When Self-Determination Runs Amok,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 682–686</p> <p>(3) John D. Arras, “Physician-Assisted Suicide: A Tragic View,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 687–702</p> <p>(4) Ronald Dworkin et al., “The Philosopher’s Brief,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 717–725</p>
14 / May 11, 2023	JUSTICE & HEALTH CARE / FINAL DISCUSSION	<p>(1) John Harris, “The Survival Lottery,” <i>The Ethical Life. Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems</i>, ed. by Russ Shafer-Landau, New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press 2018, 258–266</p> <p>(2) Norman Daniels, “Is There a Right to Health Care and, if So, What Does It Encompass?,”</p>



SESSION / DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
		<i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i> , 763–769  (3) Allan E. Buchanan, “The Right to a Decent Minimum of Health Care,” <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and            Cases</i> , 770–775
15 / May 15 – May 19, 2023	<b>COMPLETION WEEK</b>  (No Class) <i>Final Papers Due Friday, May 19 for            graduating students &amp; May 21, 2023 for            other students</i>	

## ESSAY DEADLINES

**Midterm Paper** (2000 words) by **March 19, 2023, 23:59 CET**

**Final Paper** (3000 words) by **May 19, 23:59 for graduating students & May 21, 2023, 23:59 CEST for other students**