

Instructor: Kevin Patton  
Course: PHIL 365  
Day: Tues / Thur  
Time: 1130 - 1245 / 1305 - 1420  
Location: DUR 1061

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# Medical Ethics

“I am dying from the treatment of too many physicians.”  
-Alexander the Great

## Course Overview

This course will examine many of the major ethical issues confronting the practices of medicine and biomedical science. Philosophers usually approach such issues by making use of ethical theories which are then applied to the particular topics under examination. Thus, we begin the class by looking at some of the most dominant ethical theories / positions available in medical ethics. Then, we spend a good deal of time looking at case studies and attempting to apply those various theories to such cases. The course ends by examining some of the thornier issues in medical ethics - both at the theory level as well as at the practical level. The goal for this course is for you to learn the philosophical skill of recognizing moral issues, and learning how to parse them into solvable pieces. Class sessions are primarily a combination of lecture and group discussion.

## Required Materials

*Ethics for A-Level*, **2017 edition**, by Mark Dimmock and Andrew Fisher (**free** ebook)

*Public Health Ethics: Cases Spanning the Globe*, **2016 editions**, Drue H. BarrettLeonard W. OrtmannAngus DawsonCarla SaenzAndreas ReisGail Bolan (**free** ebook)

## Course Information

**Preparation:** This course may be very challenging for you if you are not accustomed to reasoning in a rigorous fashion. If this is true of you, then you will only do well in this class if you dedicate much of your outside-of-class-time to practicing and mastering the relevant topics

covered. Also, the only dumb questions are the ones not asked. If you are confused about something, then there is a high likelihood that someone else is too! ASK.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. There are no make-ups for exams unless your absence is due to a **documented** illness or an emergency.

**Website:** All course material, including the textbook, will be available exclusively on my website. I do **not** use other services. The site URL is: <https://kevinjpatton.com>

## Evaluation

### Grading Scale

A+	96.7 - 100%	C+	76.7 - 79.9%
A	93.3 - 96.6%	C	73.3 - 76.6%
A-	90 - 93.2%	C-	70 - 73.2%
B+	86.7 - 89.9	D+	66.7 - 69.9
B	83.3 - 86.6%	D	63.3 - 66.6%
B-	80 - 83.2%	D-	60 - 63.2%

F  
Below 60%

**Exam 1:** 25%

**Exam 2:** 25%

**Discussion Questions (from reading):** 10%

**Final Paper:** 40%

**Exams:** The use of books and notes **will not** be permitted. However, certain kinds of information will be provided on an exam should you need it, and you will be told ahead of time what you are and what you are not required to memorize. Exams may not be rescheduled unless you have documentation of a serious illness or an emergency. A make-up exam is not guaranteed to be at the same level of difficulty as the original exam.

**Discussion Questions:** Discussion questions will be turned in on the days specified on our assignment schedule. Such questions are meant to reinforce the content of the reading by forcing you to engage with questions related to the reading. There will be no makeups allowed unless you have documentation of a serious illness or an emergency.

**Final Paper:** A final paper will be due by the end of the semester. In general, such papers require you to properly explain a position / argument, followed by a sustained critique of the position / argument. There will be a rubric, followed by guidelines for the paper as we get closer to the end of the semester.

## Policies

- **Academic Integrity:** The penalty for academic dishonesty (e.g., collaborating on problem sets, cheating on exams) will be failure of the course and the case's being forwarded to Student Judicial Affairs for possible disciplinary action. Make yourself familiar with KU's Student Code of Conduct, available [online](#). **In this course, the normal penalty for any violation of the code is an "F" for the semester.** Violations may have additional consequences including expulsion from the university. Don't plagiarize – it just isn't worth it.

- **University Policies:** I respect and uphold university policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired students; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are advised to become familiar with the respective university regulations and are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor.

- **ADA:** In compliance with University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

- **Misc.:** Please turn off cell phones, beeping watches, and other gadgets that make noise before entering our classroom. Absolutely no texting is permitted during class. I will subtract up to five points from your participation grade each and every time your phone rings or I see you texting during class.

### KU Required Syllabus Content:

#### Statement Regarding [Academic Honesty](#)

Kansas State University has an Honor and Integrity System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that, in academic matters, one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor and Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the [Honor and Integrity System](#) apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. A component vital to the Honor and Integrity System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a

student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

### **1. Statement Regarding [Students with Disabilities](#)**

Students with disabilities who need classroom accommodations, access to technology, or information about emergency building/campus evacuation processes should contact the Student Access Center and/or their instructor. Services are available to students with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to, physical disabilities, medical conditions, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, depression, and anxiety. If you are a student enrolled in campus/online courses through the Manhattan or Olathe campuses, contact the Student Access Center at [accesscenter@k-state.edu](mailto:accesscenter@k-state.edu), 785-532-6441; for K-State Polytechnic campus, contact Sarah Werner, Director of Student Life, at [sarahdwerner@ksu.edu](mailto:sarahdwerner@ksu.edu) or call 785-826-2984.

Additional Information for Faculty:

Faculty members who need assistance with accommodating a student with a documented disability should contact the access services office on the appropriate campus. Assistance may include administration of course exams with extended time and/or distraction reduced environment or providing an alternate format of text materials.

### **2. Statement Defining Expectations for Classroom Conduct**

All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the [Student Judicial Conduct Code](#) as outlined in the Student Governing Association [By Laws](#), Article V, Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

## Further Resources

- Jargon: It's important to be on top of the technical terms used by philosophers. Please ask for clarification of terms in class. You can also consult Jim Pryor's online "[Philosophical Terms and Methods](#)." This is less important in this class than in more 'normal' philosophy classes, but it may help.
- Reference: The [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) is an excellent online resource, though entries can be lengthy. The [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) has shorter entries, but it is not as scholarly.
- I may post some additional readings on my website if the assigned reading does not explain something with sufficient clarity.
- This class satisfies KU's [Ethical Reasoning and Responsibility](#) criteria.

# Assignment Calendar

<b>Jan 21</b>	Introduction	<b>April 7</b>	John Harris Paper Pt2
<b>Jan 23</b>	Logical Principles	<b>April 9</b>	Savulescu Paper Pt1
<b>Jan 28</b>	Eth4A - Chap 1	<b>April 14</b>	Savulescu Paper Pt2
<b>Jan 30</b>	Eth4A - Chap 2	<b>April 16</b>	CRISPR Concerns
<b>Feb 4</b>	Eth4A - Chap 3	<b>April 21</b>	Most Research is False
<b>Feb 6</b>	Four Principles	<b>April 23</b>	Most Research is not False
<b>Feb 11</b>	2.2 Case Study	<b>April 28</b>	Four Principles Critiqued
<b>Feb 13</b>	2.3 Case Study	<b>April 30</b>	Four Principles and Islam
<b>Feb 18</b>	2.4 Case Study	<b>May 5</b>	Flex Day
<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Exam 1 😊</b>	<b>May 7</b>	Flex Day
<b>Feb 27</b>	3.5 w/ Discussion ?s	<b>May 12</b>	<b>No class</b>
<b>Mar 3</b>	3.6 w/ Discussion ?s	<b>May 14</b>	<b>Final Paper Due</b>
<b>Mar 5</b>	3.7 w/ Discussion ?s		
<b>Mar 10</b>	<b>Spring Break!</b>		
<b>Mar 12</b>	<b>Spring Break!</b>		
<b>Mar 17</b>	6.1 - 6.4 w/ Discussion ?s		
<b>Mar 19</b>	6.5 w/ Discussion ?s		
<b>Mar 24</b>	6.6 w/ Discussion ?s		
<b>Mar 26</b>	6.7 w/ Discussion ?s		
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Exam 2 😊</b>		
<b>April 2</b>	John Harris Paper Pt1		