

Instructor: Kevin Patton
Course: MEDH 2300 / PHIL 2300
Day: Tues / Thurs
Time: 1430-1545 / 1600 - 1715
Location: ASH 392

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Office: ASH 205F
Office Hours: T/ R 1300-1400

Introduction to Ethics

“My desire and wish is that the things I start with should be so obvious that you wonder why I spend my time stating them. This is what I aim at because the point of philosophy is to start with something so simple as not to seem worth stating, and to end with something so paradoxical that no one will believe it.”

Bertrand Russell from *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism* 1918.

Course Overview

Human Values in Medicine examines questions of value and meaning that arise in medical contexts. This course provides an opportunity for philosophy majors, medical humanities majors/minors, and students preparing for health professions to confront ethical and social issues in medicine and biomedical research.

Required Materials

There is nothing required to purchase for the class. All required readings are provided by the instructor.

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 you don't ask. If you are confused about something, then there is a high likelihood that someone else is too!

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 on Canvas. I also have a website with some helpful links as well. The site URL is: <https://kevinjpatton.github.io/>

Evaluation

Grading Scale

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|-----------|--------------|----|--------------|
| 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%

Reading Quizzes: 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.

Reading Quizzes: Weekly reading quizzes will be given (typically on the second class of the week, but not always). Such quizzes are meant to reinforce the content of the reading, and the lectures over the readings. There will be no makeups allowed for a missed quiz unless you have documentation of a serious illness or an emergency. The format of these quizzes is multiple choice and they will show up again on the corresponding exams. We will go over the correct answers in class, but you will not get the graded quizzes back.

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. In addition to the paper, there will be a short but corresponding presentation that you will give the class at 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 UNO'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.

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.

Assignment Calendar

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|---------------|--|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Day 1 | Introduction | Day 22 | Infertility Equality |
| Day 2 | E4A: Hedonism | Day 23 | Reproductive Rights |
| Day 3 | E4A: Utilitarianism | Day 24 | Reproductive Rights |
| Day 4 | E4A: Deontology / Kant | Day 25 | Reproductive Rights |
| Day 5 | E4A: Virtue Theory | Day 26 | Case Study 3.1 |
| Day 6 | Recap / Review | Day 27 | Case Study 3.2 |
| Day 7 | Case Study 2.2 / Paper 1 due on Canvas | Day 28 | Case Study 3.3 |
| Day 8 | Case Study 2.3 | Day 29 | Criticism of the 4 Principles |
| Day 9 | Case Study 2.4 | Day 30 | Criticism of the 4 Principles |
| Day 10 | Principle 1: Autonomy | Day 31 | Criticism of the 4 Principles |
| Day 11 | Principle 2: Nonmaleficence | | |
| Day 12 | Principle 3: Beneficence | | |
| Day 13 | Principle 4: Justice | | |
| Day 14 | Intersex Issues | | |
| Day 15 | Intersex Issues | | |
| Day 16 | Intersex Issues | | |
| Day 17 | Intersex Issues | | |
| Day 18 | Intersex Issues | | |
| Day 19 | Paternalism in Medicine | | |
| Day 20 | Paternalism in Medicine | | |
| Day 21 | Infertility Equality | | |