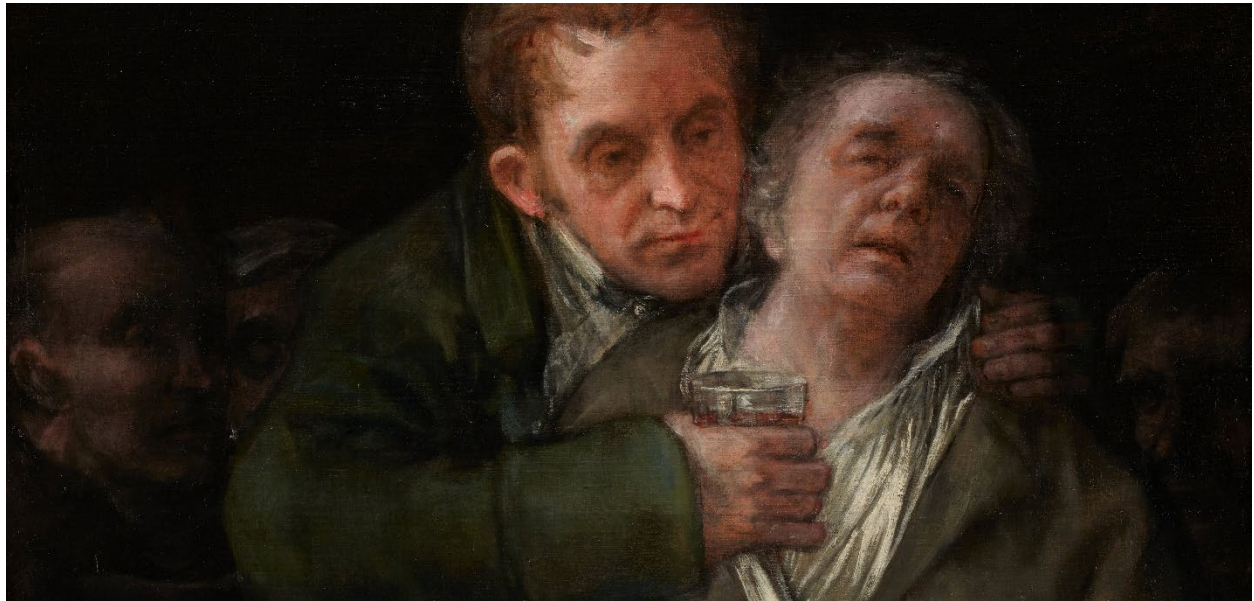


PHIL 09  
Fall 2023  
MW 12:30-1:50pm  
CHASS Interdisciplinary-North 1020

Paul Tulipana  
[ptuli001@ucr.edu](mailto:ptuli001@ucr.edu)  
HMNSS 3218  
Office hours MW 3:30-4:30pm, o.b.a.

# Biomedical Ethics



The course begins with an introduction to ethical theory and then takes up specific topics in medicine and in research in the biological and medical sciences. Examples: Is abortion morally permissible? What, if any, are appropriate moral constraints on research involving human embryonic stem cells and human embryos? Should parents be able to select for or against genetic traits in their future children? Should they be able to enhance them? Is there a moral right to healthcare and, if so, what does it encompass? Is euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide permissible?

## Requirements

### Reading, Lectures, and Discussion Sections

Carefully reading the assigned texts is important. The lectures may go beyond the content of the assigned readings. Students are expected to regularly attend both lecture and section. Attendance and participation at section counts for 10% of your grade.

If you anticipate logistical difficulties with regular attendance, let us know and we will try to work something out.

## TA Contact Information

TA	Email	Office Hours	Office #
Andrew Akampurira	aakam004@ucr.edu		
Molly Bond	molly.bond@email.ucr.edu		
Maxine McCuller	maxine.mcculler@email.ucr.edu		
Katie Vidueira	kvidu001@ucr.edu		

## Short reflection papers

Over the course of the quarter, you'll write three short (and very low-stakes) reflection papers. Each reflection paper should be less than a single page long and should present a philosophical comment or a question about something in one of the readings. We'll post a little writing rubric and a couple of sample reflections at the beginning of the quarter so that you know what kind of thing we're hoping to see.

You should have the first one turned in no later than week three (10/20), the second no later than week six (11/10), and the last by week ten (12/8). Note carefully that your responses should be turned in at least 24 hours before your section so that your TA has time to read it in advance.

Each reflection will be worth 5% of your final grade; the three reflections count for 15% of it in total.

## Midterm

You'll write a take-home midterm exam sometime around week five. It will account for 35% of your final grade.

## Final Exam

You'll write a take-home final exam during finals week. It will account for 40% of your final grade.

## Late Assignments

Late writing assignments will be penalized one third of one letter grade (i.e., A- becomes B+) every 24 hours, starting ten minutes after the deadline. Exceptions to the lateness policy will be made only in cases we deem exceptional.

## Accessible Education Information

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations should submit their request for accommodations to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) as soon as possible, as it may take up to two weeks for the SDRC to review the request. You can request a letter of accommodation on the R'Ability website.

For more information, please visit the SRDC website ([www.sdrc.ucr.edu](http://www.sdrc.ucr.edu)), visit the CAE at 1228 Student Services Building, or contact them by phone at (951) 827-3861.

## Texts

Everything is available online this quarter.

## Schedule of Topics<sup>1</sup>

1. *Introduction: Ethical considerations, general principles, and particular issues in biomedical ethics*

### I. INTRODUCTION TO ETHICAL THEORY

2. *Ethical considerations I: What would be for the best*
  - Lazari-Radek and Singer, selections from *Utilitarianism: A Very Short Introduction* (2017).
3. *Ethical considerations II: Dignity and autonomy*
  - Wood, "Humanity" from his *Kantian Ethics* (2008).
  - Nussbaum, Parts 1 & 2 from "The Future of Feminist Liberalism" in *Proceedings and Addresses of the American Philosophical Association*, Nov., 2000, Vol. 74, No. 2.
4. *Nonmaleficence and beneficence*
  - Foot, "Killing and Letting Die," (1985), reprinted in her *Moral Dilemmas* (2002).
  - *Optional*: Brueck & Sulmasy, "The Rule of Double Effect," (2020),  
<https://bioethics.hms.harvard.edu/journal/rule-double-effect>
5. *Competence, consent, and paternalism*
  - Beauchamp and Childress, excerpts from "Respect for Autonomy," in *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* (2013).
6. *Moral status, interests, and rights*
  - Jaworska & Tannenbaum, "The Grounds of Moral Status" (2021),  
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/grounds-moral-status/>
  - Singer, "All Animals Are Equal," in *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*, eds. Regan and Singer (1989).

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<sup>1</sup> Schedule may change.

- Anderson, “Animal Rights and the Values of Nonhuman Life,” in *Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions*, eds. Sunstein and Nussbaum (2005).

## II. TOPICS

### 7. *Abortion*

- Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral,” *The Journal of Philosophy* (1989).
- Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion,” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (1971).
- Dworkin, “The Morality of Abortion,” from his *Life’s Dominion* (1993).

### 8. *Research involving Human Embryos and Human Embryonic Stem Cells*

- Devolder, excerpts from *The Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research* (2015).
- Aach, et al. “Addressing the Ethical Issues Raised by Synthetic Human Entities with Embryo-Like Features,” *eLife Sciences Publications* (2017).

### 9. *Genetic Selection*

- Purdy, “Genetics and Reproductive Risk: Can Having Children Be Immoral?” in *Technology and Values: Essential Readings*, ed. Hanks (2010).
- Parens and Adrienne Asch, “The Disability Rights Critique of Prenatal Genetic Testing: Reflections and Recommendations,” *Hastings Center Report* (1999).
- Strange and Chadwick, “The Ethics of Non-Medical Sex Selection,” *Health Care Analysis* (2009).
- Savulescu and Kahane, “The Moral Obligation to Create Children with the Best Chance of the Best Life,” *Bioethics* (2009).

### 10. *Is There a Right to Healthcare?*

- Daniels, “Is There a Right to Healthcare, and If So, What Does it Encompass?” in *A Companion to Bioethics*, eds. Kuhse and Singer (1998).

### 11. *Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide*

- Brock, “Voluntary Active Euthanasia,” *Hastings Center Report* (1992).

Revised 25 September 2023