Dr. Steven Jensen  Philosophy 3318A
Professor of Philosophy  Bioethics
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jensensj@stthom.edu
Office: Sullivan 104B  2:10 - 3:25 Tu/Th
Hours: Tuesday: 9:00 - 11:45; 1:35 - 2:00
Thursday: 3:30 - 5:00
Friday: 10:00 - 12:00

Course Description: This course provides an overview of ethical issues arising in health care, such as confidentiality, informed consent, honesty, the just distribution of health care resources, questions of death and dying, assisted suicide, abortion, and cloning.

SYNTHESIS COURSE: This course is a synthesis course, which synthesizes material from philosophy, biology, and health-care. The material will be synthesized by attempting to understand the biology involved in healthcare as well as the standards and procedures involved with healthcare and then seeing how ethical principles apply to these areas.


MISSED EXAMS: Missed exams will receive a zero, except in cases of emergency. Students wishing to reschedule exams must contact me prior to the date of the exam.

CHEATING: Students who cheat on an exam or quiz and students who plagiarize on a paper will fail the course.

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS: There will be five groups of two forums throughout the semester, so that, for instance, the first group will have forums 1A & 1B; the second group will have 2A & 2B, and so on. Students must provide at least one substantial post in each group. In group 1, for instance, students might post in either 1A or 1B; they need not post in both (although they can, if they wish). Each forum is worth a maximum of 6 points, which can be earned through a single post, if it is substantial enough.

DISABILITY: If you have any disability for which accommodation may be requested, please contact Counseling Services/Disability Services, located on the second floor of Crooker Center.

GRADE ASSESSMENT: Students’ grades will consist of 410 points, broken down into the following elements:
- 3 tests . . . . . . . . . . 300 pts.
- 4 papers . . . . . . . . . . 80 pts.
- 5 posts . . . . . . . . . . 30 pts.
These values may change slightly. Grades will then be determined by the following percentile scale: 100-96 A; 96-92 A-; 92-88 B+; 88-84 B; 84-80 B-; 80-76 C+; 76-72 C; 72-68 C-; 68-56 D; 56-0 F.

ATTENDANCE: ¾ points participation will be given for each complete day of attendance. These points will be added gratis onto the student’s total score for the semester.

ELECTRONICS: The use of electronics are not permitted during class. Cell phones and computers may not be used. I know that some students wish to use them for good purpose, but too many students have used them for texting or for e-mail or for surfing the web during class. Students caught using a cell phone during a test will receive a zero. Audio recordings of class will be permitted if you are not touching the electronic device during class.
OUTLINE OF COURSE MATERIAL (all dates are estimates)

CLASS OUTLINE:
I. PART I: RELATIVISM AND MULTICULTURALISM
  A. Moral relativism (Thu, Jan 18)
  B. Relativism arguments (Tue, Jan 23)
  C. Relativism effects (Thu, Jan 25)
  D. realism and tolerance (Tue, Jan 30)
  E. Macklin - Ethical Relativism in a Multicultural Society (Tue, Jan 30)
  F. Female mutilation (Tue, Jan 30)

Paper #1 (Mon, Jan 29, 11:59 PM)

II. PART II: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH-CARE POLICY
  A. Managed Care
     1. Angell - The Doctor as Double Agent (Thu, Feb 1)
     2. Case study (Thu, Feb 1)
  B. Rationing -- Age as a Standard
     1. Callahan - Terminating Treatment: Age as a Standard (Thu, Feb 1)
     2. Etzioni - Spare the Old, Save the Young (Thu, Feb 1)

online discussion forum 1A (Wed, Jan 31, 11:59 PM)
  C. Socialized Medicine
     1. Engelhardt - Freedom and Moral Diversity (Tue, Feb 6)
     2. Smith - Conscience Clause (Tue, Feb 6)
     3. Smith - The Coming of Medical Martyrdom (Tue, Feb 6)
     4. Liverpool pathway.hospital paid millions (Tue, Feb 6)
     5. Half on LCP never told - Telegraph (Tue, Feb 6)

online discussion Forum 1B (Mon, Feb 5, 11:59 PM)

III. PART III: EXPERIMENTATION
  A. Consent
     1. Nuremberg and Helsinki codes (Thu, Feb 8)
  B. Animal Experimentation
     1. Singer - all animals are equal (Thu, Feb 8)
     2. Cohen -- case for use of animals in biomedical research (Thu, Feb 8)
     3. Silver Spring monkey case (Thu, Feb 8)
     4. Rosenzweig – brain development (Thu, Feb 8)

online discussion Forum 2A (Wed, Feb 7, 11:59 PM)

IV. PART IV: PHYSICIAN-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP
  A. Codes
     1. Hippocratic oath (Tue, Feb 13)
     2. AMA - the Patient-Physician Relationship (Tue, Feb 13)
     3. ANA - code for Nurses (Tue, Feb 13)
  B. Virtuous activity
     1. Higgs - On Telling Patients the Truth (Tue, Feb 13)
  C. Informed consent
     1. Robinson - Opinion in Canterbury v. Spence (Thu, Feb 15)
     2. Pres commission - Values Underlying Informed Consent (Thu, Feb 15)
     3. Brandt – Racism and Research Tuskegee Syphilis Study (Thu, Feb 15)

online discussion Forum 2B (Wed, Feb 14, 11:59 PM)
  D. Confidentiality
     1. Tarasoff (Thu, Feb 15)

Test #1 (Tue, Feb 20)
V. PART V: END OF LIFE ISSUES

A. Definition of Death
1. Bernat - The Whole-Brain Concept of Death Remains Optimum Public Policy (Tue, Feb 27)
2. Shewmon – Controversies surrounding Brain Death (EOT, 21-42) (Tue, Feb 27)

Paper #2 (Mon, Feb 26, 11:59 PM)

B. Organ Transplantation
1. Introduction
   a. Jensen – introduction (EOT, xi-xxi) (Thu, Mar 1)
2. Dead Donor Rule
   a. Cochrane – Allow the Dying to Donate: Replace DDR (EOT, 135-54) (Thu, Mar 1)
   b. Jensen – Killing and Letting Die (EOT, 170-91) (Tue, Mar 6)

online discussion forum 3A (Mon, Mar 5, 11:59 PM)
3. Markets and coercion
   a. Matas - Should we pay donors to increase the supply of organs for transplantation? (Thu, Mar 8)
   b. Caplan - Do No Harm: The Case Against Organ Sales from Living Persons (Thu, Mar 8)
   c. Matas – Ethics of Contact with China on Transplants (EOT, 232-48) (Thu, Mar 8)
   d. Iran organ market (Thu, Mar 8)

online discussion forum 3B (Wed, Mar 7, 11:59 PM)

C. Suicide and Euthanasia
1. Active and Passive Euthanasia
   a. Introduction (Thu, Mar 8)
   b. Rachels - Active and Passive Euthanasia (Thu, Mar 8)
   c. Sullivan - Active and Passive Euthanasia (Thu, Mar 8)

online discussion forum 4A (Wed, Mar 7, 11:59 PM)

Spring Break (Tue, Mar 13)
Spring Break (Thu, Mar 15)

2. A Duty to Die
   a. Hardwig - Is There a Duty to Die? (Thu, Mar 22)
   b. Ackerman - The “Duty to Die” versus the Duty to Help the Ill Stay Alive (Thu, Mar 22)

online discussion forum 4B (Wed, Mar 21, 11:59 PM)
3. Slippery Slope (Tue, Mar 27)
4. Tuesdays with Morrie (Tue, Mar 27)

Paper #3 (Mon, Mar 26, 11:59 PM)

Easter Break (Thu, Mar 29)

Test #2 (Tue, Apr 3)
VI.  **PART VI: BEGINNING OF LIFE ISSUES**  

A. Abortion  
1. Warren - On the moral and legal Status of Abortion (Tue, Apr 10)  
2. Marquis - Why Abortion is Immoral (Thu, Apr 12)  
3. George - Acorns and Embryos (Thu, Apr 12)  

**Online discussion Forum 5A (Mon, Apr 9, 11:59 PM)**  
4. Eight arguments concerning abortion (Tue, Apr 17)  
5. Humanity of the unborn child (Thu, Apr 19)  
6. Human dignity (Tue, Apr 24)  

B. Cloning  
1. Häyry - Philosophical Arguments for and against Human Reproductive Cloning (Tue, Apr 24)  
2. Kass - Cloning of Human Beings (Tue, Apr 24)  
3. Murray - Even If It Worked, Cloning Wouldn't Bring Her Back (Tue, Apr 24)  

**Paper #4 (Mon, Apr 23, 11:59 PM)**  

C. Perfectionism  
1. Savulescu – Procreative Beneficence (Thu, Apr 26)  
2. Jensen – The Roots of Transhumanism (Tue, May 1)  

**Online discussion forum 5B (Wed, Apr 25, 11:59 PM)**  
3. other (Thu, May 3).  

**Test #3 (Thursday, May 10, 3:00-5:30 PM)**