

PHI -237 SOCIAL AND ETHICAL VALUES IN MEDICINE – Spring 2022
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00-10:50 Room: Knox 109

Instructor: Professor David B. Hershenov

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 am -1:00 pm or by appointment

Office: Park Hall 123

Email dh25@buffalo.edu

Head Teaching Assistant (TA)

Noah Kim

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30AM-12:30PM and by appointment

Office: Park Hall Rm 155

Noah is the TA for students whose last names are found alphabetically from Abilmona through Hayes

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Teaching Assistant (TA)

Gloria Sanso

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Office: Park Hall 120

Email: gsanso@buffalo.edu

Gloria is the TA for students whose last names are found alphabetically from Hill through Mussenden

Teaching Assistant (TA)

Josh Vonderhaar

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays 11:00 pm – 12:00 pm

Office: Park Hall Rm Park 158

Email: jvonderh@buffalo.edu

Josh is the TA for students whose last names are found from Mustari through Zheng

Learning Outcomes

- * Understanding the role of conscience, autonomy, and informed consent in medical decisions
- * Understanding how the leading theories of our worth and dignity influence life and death issues
- * Understanding conflicts between one's right to control one's body & duties to save another's life
- * Understanding debates about the nature, definition, and criterion of death
- * Understanding the moral issues involved with procuring and distributing transplantable organs
- * Understanding the arguments for and against creating children through surrogacy
- * Understanding the arguments for rationing resources and mandating vaccinations during an epidemic
- * Understanding the arguments for and against genetic and chemical enhancements
- * Understanding the methodology of moral arguments – logic, analogies, and thought experiments
- * Developing the ability to critically read a philosophy text
- * Developing the ability to write a critical philosophy paper

Learning Outcomes

Assessment: All but the last learning outcome will be assessed through both exams and a paper. The last outcome will be assessed solely by grading and commenting upon the paper.

Email Etiquette: I won't open emails without subject headings and may not respond if you don't provide your first and last name in the body of the message. Please include "Phi-237" in the subject heading. Please continue on the same thread so my memory can be refreshed about our previous correspondence. I have many students (200 in this class alone) so I may not remember your previous email.

Attendance Requirements: Attendance will be taken starting the second week of the course. Students are allowed five unexcused absences. Excused absences are medical conditions (your TA may request a medical note), family emergencies, and the like. Contact your TA, not the professor, about excused absences. Oversleeping, work schedules, or transportation problems (car trouble, traffic jams, and missed buses) do not count as valid excuses. Each additional unexcused absence will result in the loss of a point from the student's course average. For example, if your average score on the tests and papers is a 90 (an A- grade) then with your sixth unexcused absence that number will be reduced to an 89 and you will receive a B+ rather than an A- in the course. If you miss a class, watch the recorded lecture or read the lecture transcript. Both are available on UB Learns under "Documents"

Revoking Attendance Credit: TAs reserve the right to revoke attendance credit when students leave right after attendance is taken when it is recorded early in the class or arrive right before attendance is taken when it is recorded later in the class. Student may be given either partial or no attendance credit for not attending the entire class. TAs may also take away full or partial attendance if students are on cell phone or looking at anything on their computer other than course material or typing in notes. Not paying attention during the class violates the spirit of the attendance rule.

Attendance Questions: CONTACT YOUR TA, NOT THE PROFESSOR, for any queries concerning your attendance records. If you believe there is an error in the record keeping or believe you have a justified excuse, contact your TA. There is no reason to contact the Professor about attendance matters unless you believe you have been treated unfairly by your TA.

Accessing Assigned Articles

All the articles can be found on UB Learns.

Read every article at least twice, once before and once after the lecture.

Free Expression and Civil Dialogue: The topics we will cover will often be controversial and elicit strong feelings. Please don't censor yourself or others. We're here to discover the truth and convince others of it. Arguments and persuasion - not appeals to tradition, political correctness, browbeating and shaming - will be the modus operandi of the course. That said, the pursuit of truth is compatible with civil discourse and charitably interpreting others. Also keep in mind that this isn't a psychology course. As such, we aren't interested in folks' motives, only the philosophical merits of the principles they use to justify their beliefs.

Grades: Grades will be determined by attendance, extra credit discussion posts, three tests, one paper abstract and one paper. The 1st exam is worth 20% of your grade (excluding any X credit earned), the 2nd and 3rd worth 25%. The abstract is worth 5% of your grade (excluding any X credit) and the paper is worth 25% your grade (excluding any X credit).

Tests: Each test will consist of multiple choice questions and true/false questions. Some of the test questions will be based on material covered only in the lectures that will not be found in the outlines/power points or in the readings. This is not a correspondence course! A practice exam will be distributed two days before the exam. It was an actual exam from an earlier semester.

Translating Test Points into Letter Grades. Every 3.3 points is one third of one grade. For instance, a score from 70 up to and including a 73.3 will be a C-; a score above 73.3 and up to and including a 76.6 will be awarded a C. Scoring above 76.6 but below an 80 will qualify as a C+. Likewise, a grade of a B- will be from 80-83.3 and so on...

Possibility of Curved Tests: The exams will not be curved unless half the class has not managed to obtain an 82 (B-) grade. If that happens, then everyone in the class (including students taking makeup tests) will receive whatever number of points are needed to get half the class up to the 82 (B-) mark.

Return of Tests: The plan will be to return the tests after a week has elapsed since the taking of the test. But the scores might be posted earlier on UB Learns. Please keep all of your returned tests in case there is an inconsistency between the grades recorded by the TA and your actual grades. There will be no remedy without a saved test! Please also check UB Learns periodically to make sure there is no discrepancy between the posted grades and your actual grades.

Missed Tests: CONTACT YOUR TA, NOT THE PROFESSOR before the test if you know you are going to miss it. Whether you are allowed to take a makeup will depend upon the reason why you missed the test. If you couldn't give advanced notice about a missed test, inform your TA, not the instructor, to ask permission to take a makeup test. Missed tests must be made up the following week. If the test is not taken within 7 days, the student will receive an F. For example, if the actual class test is given on a Tuesday at 11:00, then students taking the makeup have until the end of the next Tuesday at 11:00 am to *finish* taking the makeup test. Notice that you must be done with the exam by 11:00 am, not beginning or still taking the exam. If students fail to make up the test in a week, the only way for them to avoid an F will be if they have a note from a doctor that attests to a prolonged illness that prevented them from making up the test. After your TA has given approval to take the makeup test, students should arrange with the TA about when to take the makeup test. Students taking a test at the accessibilities office must notify the professor two days before each exam.

Paper Abstracts: Students must submit a 500-750 word abstract outlining the arguments they plan to develop in their term paper. Do not fill up the abstract with a summary of the article to be discussed. The abstract is not a synopsis of the assigned text. The abstract should inform the TA about what positions you are going to argue for or against and how you will do so. If you are unsure what the TA wants in an abstract, contact him before you submit the abstract.

Papers: Paper topics will be distributed by email and posted on UB Learns. The paper must be between 1200-1800 words which is typically 4-6 pages.

Paper Writing Tips: Time will be set aside in class for the TAs to provide their students with some paper writing tips. Your TA will provide you with formatting requirements – spacing, margins, citation styles etc. Your TA will most likely require your paper be submitted electronically through Safe Assign

Late Papers: Late papers will be penalized one third of one grade for each day late. Papers slipped under the TA's door or placed in their mailboxes after 11:59 pm of the due date will be considered late.

Extra Credit for Discussion Posts: You can receive extra credit from 1- 5 points by *frequent* and *intelligent* discussion posts.

There are NO other Options for Extra Credit: Do not ask for the opportunity to change your grade by doing some extra work. The answer is no! This will be the case even if you don't receive the grade you need to graduate or get into a major. The time for extra effort is before the tests! The university has established certain minimum grades to graduate or advance into a program and I am not going to counter their requirements for your sake. A grade of a C- will not be changed to a C to ensure that you graduate on time or get into a desired program.

GRADES WILL NOT BE ROUNDED UP! I will not lower your grade from an A- to a B+ if you average a 90 on your tests. If I did, you would be right to protest that you deserve the letter grade that correlates with your numerical grade. So I likewise will not raise your grade from an 89 to a 90 so you can get an A-