

RETH 45102 Religion, Medicine, and Ethics
Winter 2018
Tuesday 2:00-4:50pm
Swift Hall 200

Professor Richard Miller
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Office hours: Tuesday
10am-noon: Sign up with
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Description

Modern biomedical ethics emerged in the United States in the late 1960s as part of our culture's growing concern for individual rights and its increased skepticism about professional power and expertise. This course surveys the contributions of leading figures in mainstream bioethics along with new currents and voices in the field. We will examine authors who have shaped academic writing and public policy in the United States along with the recent efflorescence of bioethics in different cultural contexts.

Assignments

1. Regular attendance and participation: 20%
2. Book Review: 30%. A 2-3 single-spaced 12 point font critical review of a book in biomedical ethics. The text may be one of the assigned readings, but need not be. The book must be different from the book that is the basis of Final Paper. Due: Jan. 29, submitted to me as a Word document via email by 5pm. Please write your name and the course number in the subject heading, e.g., J. Jones RETH 45102/Review. Suggested books for review are listed on a separate sheet at end of this syllabus.
3. Final Paper on topic approved by the instructor. 50%. Each student should write a 15-20 page double-spaced, 12pt font critical paper on two or more of the texts read in the course on a topic approved by me. Due: March 13. *Note: The paper title, 1-2 paragraph thesis, and brief bibliography are due on February 16.* The final paper is due March 13. These written materials should be submitted to me as a Word document via email by 5pm on the due dates. Please write your name and the course number in the subject heading, e.g., J. Jones RETH 42105 Final Paper.

NOTE: Late papers will be docked ½ grade for each day late. No written assignment that is more than 3 days late will be accepted.

P/F and Auditing Policy

Students may enroll P/F or as Auditors with my approval. All students, regardless of enrollment status, are expected to keep up with the readings, attend all sessions, and complete their assignments in a timely way. P/F Students must write 2 Book Reviews, due February 16 and March 13. Auditors must write Book Review, due March 13.

Format

Class meets once a week in a lecture and discussion format. To prepare for discussion, note the following:

1. What basic problem in medical ethics is the author addressing? Is it a theoretical problem, or a practical problem? If the former, what are the basic contours of the theory? Does the author mobilize the theory to address a (or some) practical problem(s)? If the latter, what is the problem? Does the author deploy a general theory or concept to address it? How, in general, does theory relate to practice in the author's ideas under review?
2. How, or in what respect, does the author draw on religious themes, concepts, laws, or metaphors to develop his or her ideas? Does the author think that religion offers something valuable for thinking about medical ethics, or does the author see religion as proffering problematical ideas? Or does the author adopt both attitudes toward religion's contribution to medical ethics?
3. What are the basic ethical principles, norms, virtues, or values that inform each author's work? Be on the lookout for these ideas (among others): covenant, human flourishing, equality, respect, autonomy, nature, difference. What role do they play in the author's argument? What problems do they aim to rectify?
4. Be sure to *think through and with* each author's argument, considering his or her work on its *strongest terms*. Imagine yourself as a ventriloquist of each author and consider how you would defend or develop his or her ideas, and why. What central claims and methods characterize each author's work? What are the distinctive marks of each author's method and core ideas? What is the author accomplishing? Only when those questions are addressed are you in the proper position to raise challenges or critical questions.
5. How would you describe the author's project in broad, comprehensive terms? If you had to identify the author's *thesis*, what would it be?
6. What method of analysis informs the author's thinking? How would you distinguish between the styles of writing characteristic of our authors?
7. Against what foil(s) is the author arguing?
8. How would you compare one author's work with the work of at least one other author, either by way of similarity or contrast? What concepts shape your comparison? Why are these comparisons important?

Texts

Paul Ramsey, *The Patient as Person*, excerpts on Canvas\Files.

Richard McCormick, *How Brave a New World? Dilemmas in Bioethics*, excerpts on Canvas\Files.

Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 7th ed.

Susan Wolf, *Feminism and Bioethics: Beyond Reproduction*

Thomas M. Murray, *The Worth of a Child*
Madison Powers and Ruth Faden, *Social Justice: The Moral Foundations of Public Health and Health Policy*
Paul Farmer, *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*
Noam Zohar, *Alternatives in Jewish Bioethics*
Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*
Sherine Hamdy, *Our Bodies Belong to God: Organ Transplants, Islam, and the Struggle for Human Dignity*

Recommended before the quarter begins:

David Rothman, *Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Transformed Medical Decision Making*
Albert R. Jonsen, *The Birth of Bioethics*

Books have been ordered for purchase at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore.

If you have no background in ethics, then you do well to read “Normative Ethical Theories,” by Wm. David Solomon from *The Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, on ChalkFiles before the course begins.

Schedule

I. Introduction: Early Developments in Modern Biomedical Ethics

- Wk 2 Jan. 9** Paul Ramsey, *The Patient as Person*, excerpts on CanvasFiles:
- Preface to *Patient as Person*
 - Ramsey on Consent
 - Ramsey on Dying (note two parts)
- Richard McCormick, *How Brave a New World? Dilemmas in Bioethics*, chaps. 4 (pp. 59-71), 6, 17, on CanvasFiles.
- Wk 3 Jan. 16** Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 7th ed., Chap. 1 (pp. 1-8); chaps. 4-6.
- See also “Appendix to the 5th ed: Cases in Biomedical Ethics” on CanvasFiles: be prepared to discuss these cases.

II. Diversifying the Demographics

- Wk 4 Jan. 23** Susan Wolf, *Feminism and Bioethics: Beyond Reproduction*, Introduction and chaps. 1, 3, 8, 10, 12

Wk 5 Jan. 30 Thomas M. Murray, *The Worth of a Child*

III. From Personal to Social Justice

Wk 6 Feb. 6 Madison Powers and Ruth Faden, *Social Justice: The Moral Foundations of Public Health and Health Policy*

Recommended: Beauchamp and Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*: chapter 7, “Justice.”

Wk 7 Feb. 13 Paul Farmer, *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor*: Introduction, Part I Chapter 1, Part II.

IV. Diversifying the Frameworks and Contexts

Wk 8 Feb. 20 Noam Zohar, *Alternatives in Jewish Bioethics*

Wk 9 Feb. 27 Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*

Wk 10 Mar. 6 Sherine Hamdy, *Our Bodies Belong to God: Organ Transplants, Islam, and the Struggle for Human Dignity*

Books to consider for review:

Renée Anspach, Deciding Who Lives: Fateful Choices in the Intensive-Care Nursery
Martin Benjamin and Joy Curtis, Ethics in Nursing
Tom Beauchamp and Laurence McCullough, Medical Ethics: The Moral Responsibilities of Physicians
Myra Bluebond-Langner, The Private Worlds of Dying Children
Charles Bosk, Forgive and Remember: Managing Medical Failure
Charles Bosk, All God's Mistakes: Genetic Counseling in a Pediatric Hospital
Daniel Callahan, False Hopes: Why America's Quest for Perfect Health is a Recipe for Failure
-----, Troubled Dream of Life: In Search of a Peaceful Death
-----, Setting Limits: Medical Goals in an Aging Society
Eric Cassell, The Nature of Suffering and the Goals of Medicine
James Childress, Priorities in Biomedical Ethics
Norman Daniels, Just Health Care 2nd edition
Arthur Kleinman, The Illness Narratives: Suffering, Healing, and the Human Condition
Elliot Dorff, Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics
Farhat Moazam, Bioethics And Organ Transplantation in a Muslim Society: A Study in Culture, Ethnography, and Religion
Ezekiel J. Emanuel, The Ends of Human Life: Medical Ethics in a Liberal Polity
H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. The Foundations of Bioethics
Renee Fox, Courage to Fail
-----, Essays in Medical Sociology
-----, Experiment Perilous
-----, Social Meaning of Death
-----, Sociology of Medicine
Renee Fox and Judith Swazey, Spare Parts
Fred Frohock, Special Care: Medical Decisions at the Beginning of Life
-----, Healing Powers: Alternative Medicine, Spiritual Communities, and the State
William Gaylin and Ruth Macklin, eds., Who Speaks for the Child? The Problems of Proxy Consent
Albert Jonsen, The New Medicine and the Old Ethics
Leon Kass, Toward a More Natural Science
Gerald Kelly, S.J., Medico-Moral Problems
Lonnie Kleiver, ed., Dax's Case: Essays in Medical Ethics and Human Meaning
Paul Lauritzen, Pursuing Parenthood: Ethical Issues in Assisted Reproduction
-----, ed., Cloning and the Future of Human Embryo Research
Jeff Lyon, Playing God in the Nursery
Daniel Sulmasy, The Healer's Calling: A Spirituality for Physicians and Other Health Care Professionals
-----, A Balm for Gilead: Meditations on Spirituality and the Healing Arts
-----, The Rebirth of the Clinic: An Introduction to Spirituality in Health Care
Ruth Macklin, Mortal Choices: Ethical Dilemmas in Modern Medicine
Mary Mahowald, Women and Children in Health Care: An Unequal Majority
William F. May, The Physician's Covenant

-----, The Patient's Ordeal (unless you have read this work for another course)
-----, Testing the Medical Covenant: Active Euthanasia and Health Care Reform
Paul Ramsey, Ethics at the Edges of Life: Medical and Legal Intersections
Lainie Ross, Children, Families, and Health Care Decision Making
David Smith, et al., Early Warning: Cases and Ethical Guidance for Presymptomatic Testing in Genetic Diseases
Bonnie Steinbock, Life Before Birth
Robert Veatch, Medical Ethics
-----, Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Medical Ethics
-----, Death and Dying: The Biological Revolution
-----, Distributive Justice and the Allocation of Technological Resources to the Elderly
-----, The Patient as Partner
Allen Verhey and Stephen Lammers, eds., On Moral Medicine: Theological Perspectives in Medical Ethics
James J. Walter and Thomas Shannon, eds., Quality of Life: The New Medical Dilemma
Damien Keown, Buddhism and Bioethics
Margaret Mohrmann, Attending Children: A Doctor's Education
Carl Elliott, Better than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream
Thomas A. Shannon and Lisa Sowle Cahill, Religion and Artificial Reproduction
Ezekiel J. Emanuel, Robert A. Crouch, John D. Arras, Jonathan Moreno, eds., Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research: Readings and Commentary
James F. Childress, Eric M. Meslin, and Harold T. Shapiro, Belmont Revisited: Ethical Principles for Research with Human Subjects
Ezekiel J. Emanuel and Victor Fuchs, Healthcare Guaranteed: A Simple, Secure Solution for America
Ronald Green, Babies by Design: The Ethics of Genetic Choice
Michael J. Sandel, The Case against Perfection