

Sample Syllabus:

Philosophical Perspectives in Bioethics and Autonomy

PROFESSOR G. CAMPELIA

Course Description

This course has two main objectives. The first is to strengthen student's ability to analyze ethical issues philosophically. The second is to provide students with a greater understanding of the philosophical foundations of bioethics. Though much of the course will focus on the history of the principle(s) of autonomy and new formulations of the meaning of autonomy, it will integrate other relevant philosophical concepts and principles (e.g. beneficence, rationality, competence, informed consent, etc.). Both the readings and the assignments will be structured so as to strengthen students' grasp of philosophical concepts important to bioethics and their ability to analyze particular bioethical problems in more structured, rigorous, and thoughtful ways. The course will combine readings from key historical and contemporary philosophical figures (e.g. E. Kant and J. Nedelsky) and readings of current issues in bioethics (e.g. Sex reassignment surgery, issues surrounding genetic information, etc.). Finally, classes will heavily rely on discussion rather than lecture and there will be weekly (short) writing assignments as well as a final research paper due at the end of the semester.

Session	Readings
<u>Required Text:</u> LaFollette, H. (2014). <i>Ethics in Practice</i> , 4th Ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.	
What is Moral Theory?	
Week 1	(1) Blackburn, S. (1999). Chapter 8: What to Do? In, <i>Think</i> . New York: Oxford University Press.
Moral Theory Rundown	
Week 2	Consequentialism (1) Mill, J.S. <i>Utilitarianism</i> (excerpts). (2) Hooker, B. (2014). Rule Utilitarianism and Euthanasia. In H. LaFollette (Ed.), <i>Ethics in Practice</i> , 4th Ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.
Week 3-4	Deontology (1) Kant, E. <i>Metaphysics of Morals</i> (excerpts). (2) Van der Graaf, R. and van Delden, J. J. (2012). Using people merely as a means in clinical research. <i>Bioethics</i> , 26(2):76-83. (3) Thomson, J.J. (2014). A Defense of Abortion. In H. LaFollette (Ed.), <i>Ethics in Practice</i> , 4th Ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.

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Week 5	Rights (1) Rainbolt, G. (2014). Rights. In H. LaFollette (Ed.), <i>Ethics in Practice</i> , 4th Ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell. (2) Velleman, J.D. (2014). Against the Right to Die. In H. LaFollette (Ed.), <i>Ethics in Practice</i> , 4th Ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.
Week 6-7	Virtue Ethics (1) Aristotle. <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> . (excerpts) (2) Hursthouse, R. (2014). Virtue Theory and Abortion. In H. LaFollette (Ed.), <i>Ethics in Practice</i> , 4th Ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.
Week 8	Care Ethics (1) Gilligan, C. (1982). <i>In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development</i> . Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (excerpts) (2) Held, V. (2006). <i>The Ethics of Care: Personal, Political, and Global</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press. (excerpts)
Autonomy: the Basics	
Week 9	(1) Childress, J. (1990). The Place of Autonomy in Bioethics. <i>Hastings Center Report</i> , 20(1): 12-17. (2) Rocha, J. (2012) "Autonomous Abortions: The Inhibiting of Women's Autonomy through Legal Ultrasound Requirements", <i>Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal</i> , 22,1, 35-58.
Autonomy: Philosophical and Practical Concerns	
Week 11	(1) Nozick, R. The Entitlement Theory of Justice. In H. LaFollette (Ed.), <i>Ethics in Practice</i> , 4th Ed. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell. (2) Khader, S. J., 2009, "Adaptive Preferences and Procedural Autonomy", <i>Journal of Human Development and Capabilities</i> , 10: 169–187.
Week 10	(1) Stoljar, N. (2011). Informed Consent and Relational Conceptions of Autonomy. <i>Journal of Medicine and Philosophy</i> , 36(4): 375-384. (2) McLeod, C. and S. Sherwin, 2000, "Relational Autonomy, Self-Trust and Health Care for Patients who are Oppressed", in Mackenzie and Stoljar 2000, pp. 259–279.
Autonomy: Reconsidered	
Week 12	(1) Chapter 3 & 4: Nedelsky, J. (2011). <i>Law's Relations</i> . New York: Oxford University Press.

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Week 13	<p>(1) Meyers, D.T. (2000). Intersectional Identity and the Authentic Self? Opposites Attract. In C. Mackenzie and N. Stoljar (Eds.), <i>Relational Autonomy: Feminist Perspectives on Autonomy, Agency, and the Social Self</i>. New York: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>(2) Donchin, A. (2000). Relational Autonomy, Self-Trust, and Health Care for Patients Who Are Oppressed. In C. Mackenzie and N. Stoljar (Eds.), <i>Relational Autonomy: Feminist Perspectives on Autonomy, Agency, and the Social Self</i>. New York: Oxford University Press.</p>