

## philosophy 164: medical ethics fall 2006 syllabus

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Tuesday and Thursday  
11:15 – 12:30  
HampdenDC rm 200

### required texts:

Ronald Munson, *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition

There may be some supplementary reading not found in the text. If this occurs, it will either be from info-trac, or it will be made available some other way.

### purpose of course:

Ethics or moral philosophy covers a broad range of questions and issues. We might say, however, that two questions are central: “What is right and wrong?” and “How does one lead a good life?” Medical ethics is a subset of ethics concerned with these questions in the context of medical care and medical research. Thus, medical ethics is concerned broadly with questions of right and wrong concerning particular clinical practices or practices in medical research, and it is concerned with the fundamental questions, “How does one perform morally right actions as a medical professional,” and “How does one lead a good life as a medical professional?” The purpose of this class is to provide you with information, skills and an environment that will help you answer these questions.

### course requirements:

The fulfillment of each of the following requirements is necessary, though not sufficient, for passing the course.

Pop quizzes: In addition to the regular required reading assignments, each student will be required to take at least 4 out of 6 pop quizzes. These quizzes will be related to the reading assignment due on the day it is given.

Exams: Each student will also be required to complete three exams. Exam dates are indicated below on the course calendar. The exams will be a combination of short answer and essay. Exam questions will be taken from a study guide, which will be made available before the exam. I encourage group studying because students learn philosophical ideas best through dialogue.

\*Term Paper: Each student will have *the option* of submitting a short term paper. This optional term paper assignment is intended to provide a chance for you to replace your lowest test score with a better paper score. Submitting provides the possibility of a better score, but does not guarantee one. In the event that you write a term paper, and the score is better than your lowest test score, then the paper score will replace the lowest test score. Term papers should be approximately 3-5 double spaced pages in a normal 12 pt. font. If you decide to write the paper, it is very strongly suggested that you contact me to approve your topic before you begin writing.

## grading:

Exam 1:	25%
Exam 2:	25%
Exam 3:	25%
Quizzes:	25%
<i>*Term Paper:</i>	<i>*25%</i>

## course website:

This course has a website. You can reach it using the following URL:

<http://www.people.umass.edu/jamesj/courses/medicalethics.html/index.html>

The website contains valuable information for and about the course. I hope to update it regularly. Links to study guides for the exams, term paper topics, and other valuable information will be posted as soon as they are available.

## cheating:

Violations of university regulations concerning academic honesty will not be tolerated in this course. We will do our best to see to it that students caught cheating in this course are subjected to the most severe penalties consistent with university policies. The university's policy concerning academic honesty can be found at

[http://www.umass.edu/dean\\_students/rights/acad\\_honest.htm](http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/rights/acad_honest.htm).

Students are urged to review these policies.

## respect:

This course will deal with difficult real-life ethical issues. Some of these issues are at the center of ongoing, emotionally charged controversy. Some members of the class may have very strong feelings regarding one or more of these issues. However, we will always treat one another with respect and courtesy. I will not tolerate any disrespectful treatment among the members of this class. Any member of Phil 164 who shows another member even the most insignificant level of disrespect will be withdrawn from the class.

## revised schedule:

T	Nov. 28.	abortion	pp. 561-604	
R	Nov. 30	abortion		
T	Dec. 5	finishing up abortion, euthanasia	Readings TBA	
R	Dec. 7	euthanasia and physician assisted suicide		
T	Dec. 12	euthanasia and physician assisted suicide		
W	Dec. 13	<b>last day of classes!!! optional paper assignment due by 5:00 pm in my mailbox</b>		
T	Dec. 19	<b>last exam! @10:30 a.m. in Bartlett Hall 61</b>		<b>Exam 3</b>