

Kent State University
Healthcare Ethics
PHIL 40005/50005; CRNs 16096 & 16101
Spring 2025

Professor: Dr. Kim Garchar (she/her)

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Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:30, 1:45-3:00 *and by appointment*

Class Location: Bowman (BOW) 220

Meeting Times: MW 3:45-5:00

*** The best way to reach me is by email or during office hours. ***

Course Description and Goals: This course will serve as an examination of several contemporary issues encountered in the delivery of healthcare, as well as the ethical theories and principles that shape our understanding and treatment of these issues. The course will emphasize the complexity of the questions at hand and attempt to undermine an attitude of formulaic problem solving that occasionally accompanies applied ethics. Topics addressed will include respect for patients and autonomy, informed consent, the patient-provider relationship, conflicts between research and therapy, end of life issues, resource allocation, and the funding of healthcare in the U.S.. Philosophical theories addressed will include virtue ethics, deontological ethics, care ethics, utilitarianism, and principlism.

To succeed in this course, you must complete the readings on time and as assigned. You must attend lectures, take notes, and participate. You must study, which includes reviewing the assigned readings. You must perform well on your quizzes, which requires a *careful and close reading* – not just skimming – of the reading assignments. You must also perform well on the exams; that is, you must exhibit a thorough understanding of course content as well as critical thinking skills.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, you should exhibit an understanding of these ethical theories. You should be able to recognize and analyze the values conflicts often encountered in health care. You should be able to assess theories and principles for weaknesses and strengths and be able to utilize these theories and principles when addressing healthcare problems, topics, issues, and concerns not covered in class.

Required Texts:

- *Bioethics*, 5th ed., by Lewis Vaughn, published by Oxford UP. 978-0197609026
- *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 8th ed., by Beauchamp & Childress, published by Oxford UP. 978-0199924585

Required Technology:

Students must regularly access their @kent.edu email accounts as well as the course site on Canvas. Any course cancellations or changes will be communicated to students via their university email address.

Intellectual Property:

Any intellectual property displayed or distributed to students during this course (including but not limited notes, quizzes, assignments, activities, and exams) by the professor (that is, me) remains my intellectual property. Students may not distribute, publish, or provide such intellectual property to any other person or entity for any reason, commercial or otherwise, without my express written permission.

Course Requirements:

Readings – Readings and assigned video recordings are **required** and must be completed by the date listed. Careful and critical reading is crucial for success in the course. **If you do not read the material, the chances of you earning anything higher than a D in the course are minimal.**

Lecture and Attendance – Reading assignments and associated thoughts/ideas are dense. You must attend lectures to better understand the primary concepts and the more nuanced aspect of any given position. **If you do not attend lectures, the chances of you passing the course are minimal.**

Discussion – Philosophy takes place in and requires dialogue. Your active participation in discussion with your professor and peers is essential for your success in this class, as well as the success of the class as a whole. **If you do not participate in classroom discussions, the chances of you earning a high score in the course are minimal.**

Exams – There are two exams; each will account for 25% of your overall grade. The exam may consist of multiple-choice questions, fill in the blank questions, short answer questions, essay questions, and case analyses. A study guide will be distributed at least one week prior to the exam date. **Absolutely no late exams will be administered without arrangement made prior to the exam date.** See the course policy concerning “Late Work” for additional information.

Quizzes – There will be 10 short quizzes given at the end of class regularly throughout the term on Wednesdays. The questions on the quiz will refer to both the lecture and the reading assignments due that week. **The purpose of the quiz is to ensure that you are attending class and completing the reading assignments as scheduled.** I will *drop the lowest two quiz scores* when calculating your grade (in other words, you may miss up to two quizzes without penalty). The quizzes will account for 30% of your overall grade.

Case Analyses – There are two case analyses assigned during the term. Each analysis accounts for 10% of your grade. Additional information will be provided in class. **Absolutely no “make-up” assignments will be accepted without arrangements made prior to the exam date.** See the course policy concerning “Late Work” for additional information.

GRADUATE REQUIREMENT—Graduate students are required to write an 8-12 page research paper and present their work to the class. Additional details will be distributed in class. The paper will account for 15% of your overall grade and the presentation will account for 5% of your overall grade. You must pass both the paper and presentation to pass the course. Please see the GRADUATE grade calculation, below.

Grade Calculation UNDERGRADUATES:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Quizzes (best 8 out of 10) | 30% |
| Exams (25% each) | 50% |
| Case Analyses (10% each) | 20% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Grade Calculation GRADUATES:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Quizzes (best 8 out of 10) | 20% |
| Exams (20% each) | 40% |
| Case Analyses (10% each) | 20% |
| Research paper | 15% |
| Presentation | 5% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Grading Scale:

| | | |
|----|--------|--|
| A | 92-100 | Excellent, Honors-level work; thorough understanding of material, arguments, & context |
| A- | 90-91 | Excellent work; substantial understanding of material, arguments, & context |
| B+ | 88-89 | Very good, high level of performance; substantial apprehension of material, etc. |
| B | 82-87 | Good, solid, and above average performance; apprehends material, arguments, & context |
| B- | 80-81 | Good, above average performance; generally apprehends material, arguments, & context |
| C+ | 78-79 | Average performance; general grasp of material, arguments, & context |
| C | 72-77 | Satisfactory, acceptable performance; partial grasp of material, arguments, & context |
| C- | 70-71 | Marginally satisfactory performance; limited grasp of materials, arguments, & context |
| D+ | 68-69 | Passing but unsatisfactory performance; very limited grasp of material |
| D | 60-67 | Passing but unsatisfactory performance; minimal grasp of material |
| F | ≤59 | Failure; inferior performance and lack of understanding |

Student Resources:

Office Hours—Office hours are times set aside by professors and their assistants simply for interactions with students. Please take advantage of this time. You may contact me to discuss any questions or concerns you may have, to further discuss a point you found interesting in class or pursue a philosophical conversation.

Academic Success –

See all of the ways that the Academic Success Center (ASC) can support you this semester by visiting the ASC website: www.kent.edu/asc

Tutoring (from a student who has been successful in the class): www.kent.edu/asc/tutoring.

Coaching (including help with study skills and time management): www.kent.edu/coaching.

Writing (including help with proper source citation): www.kent.edu/writingcommons.

Advising (including help with progress toward degree): www.kent.edu/university-advising.

TRIO Support Services: <https://www.kent.edu/student-support-services>

Student Services – There is a one-stop website for all student service issues including registration, billing, and financial aid. You can access this at www.kent.edu/onestop.

Counseling Services – Free, confidential counseling appointments are available through The Counseling Center. Additional information is available at www.kent.edu/ehhs/centers/chdc.

Mental Well-Being and Basic Needs Support – Kent State University is committed to supporting the overall well-being of our students. This support may take the form of assisting students with basic needs such as food and housing. We recognize that the absence of secure housing and access to food makes it difficult for students to achieve their best in and out of the classroom. If you, or someone you know, are unable to afford groceries or lack a safe, secure, and reliable place to live, please visit the CARES Center basic needs resource website: <https://www.kent.edu/carescenter/basic-needs-resources>.

Mental health challenges may also make it difficult for students to reach their full potential. KSU's mental health and wellness resource page provides information on education and awareness, mental health services, and advocacy intervention. To learn more, please visit Kent State's mental health resources and support website at <https://www.kent.edu/mentalhealth>.

Technical Support and Services – You are able to access the IT Help Desk by calling 330.672.4357 (HELP) or through live chat via the IT website: www.kent.edu/it. You can find additional technical support on the following websites:

www.kent.edu/onlinelearning/tech-tips

www.kent.edu/keeponlearning

www.kent.edu/it/get-help

Course Policies:

Late Work – **Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted AND NO LATE EXAMS WILL BE ADMINISTERED unless arrangements have been made prior to the due date.** True emergencies, such as emergency hospitalizations, are the only exceptions to this policy and require documentation. If you foresee requiring a later exam or assignment due date, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss your situation.

Assignment Format – All assignments done outside of class must be typed, double-spaced, standard 10- or 12-point font, 1-inch margins, and contain appropriate citations. If necessary, either the MLA or APA style of citations is acceptable in this class. **All submissions must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the due date.**

Cheating & Plagiarism – All work submitted for this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. To “cheat” means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. To “plagiarize” means to take and present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied. The university affirms that acts of cheating and plagiarism by students constitute a subversion of the goals of the institution, have no place in the university and are serious offenses to academic goals and objectives, as well as to the rights of fellow students.

All cases of suspected plagiarism and/or cheating will be investigated and reported. **In cases where plagiarism and/or cheating have been clearly established, the sanction imposed will be determined by the professor and will be severe; the standard minimum penalty is a failing grade for the entire course.** Possible sanctions include failing the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or dismissal from the university. University guidelines require that all infractions be reported to the Student Conduct Officer on our campus. Kent State University policy on academic honesty can be found at: <https://www.kent.edu/policyreg/administrative-policy-regarding-student-cheating-and-plagiarism>

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) – Your thoughts, opinions and personal experiences are integral to the learning process. As such, **the use of GAI is prohibited in this class.** Any student who is believed to have engaged in any form of academic dishonesty, INCLUDING THE USE OF GAI, will be held accountable to the guidelines stated in the university’s policy on student cheating and plagiarism (3342-3-01.8 in the policy register). **Please see the Cheating & Plagiarism Policy, above.**

Accommodation for Religious Holidays – The University welcomes individuals from all different faiths, philosophies, religious traditions, and other systems of belief, and supports their respective practices. Students may request class absences for up to three (3) days, per term, to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious or spiritual organization. If you predict a conflict between the observation of a religious holiday and an assignment, please see me so we can make appropriate arrangements. For more information regarding this Policy you may contact the Student Ombuds (ombuds@kent.edu).

Registration Requirement – University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashFast) prior to the deadline, which is the midnight on the 7th day of the semester. If you are considering withdrawing from this course, please consult with an advisor since withdrawal from a course may affect financial aid, student status, or progress within your major toward degree.

Student Accessibility Policy:

Kent State University is committed to inclusive and accessible education experiences for all students. University Policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to course content. Students with disabilities are encouraged to connect with Student Accessibility Services as early as possible to establish accommodations. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health, chronic medical conditions, or injuries), please let me know immediately. Please visit the Student Accessibility Services

website at www.kent.edu/sas; in person in the Library (Suite 100), email sas@kent.edu; or call 330-672-3391 (videophone 330-968-0490).

Discourse Environment and Common Courtesy – Y'all are adults. No texting, no napping, no disrespect, etc. **Basically, be nice.** There are course and university policies that govern your conduct as students. Please ask if you have any questions. *Electronic media may be used for course-related activities only.*

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

*** Please note that I reserve the right to alter the following schedule of readings and assignments as needed. All changes will be announced in class and emailed to students using “kent.edu” email addresses. ***

BIOETHICS: *Bioethics* by Vaughn
PBE: *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* by Beauchamp & Childress

| Wk | Day & Date | Topic | Reading/Viewing Assignment Due | Assignments & Exams |
|----|------------|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | M, 01/13 | Introduction | Introduction | |
| | W, 01/15 | Philosophical Argumentation | No reading assignments | |
| 2 | M, 01/20 | | NO CLASS--MLK DAY | |
| | W, 01/22 | Introduction to ethical reasoning and argumentation | PBE, pp. 1-30, "Moral Norms" | Quiz 1 |
| 3 | M, 01/27 | Ethical reasoning and argumentation, cont. | BIOETHICS, pp. 13-30, "Ethical Relativism," and "Ethics and Religion," and "Moral Arguments" | |
| | W, 01/29 | Ethical reasoning and argumentation, cont. | PBE, pp. 425-465, "Method and Moral Justification" | Quiz 2 |

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| 4 | M, 02/03 | Virtue and care | BIOETHICS, pp. 44-49, "Virtue Ethics" through "Feminist Ethics" | |
| | W, 02/05 | Excellence in medicine | Pellegrino, "The Virtuous Physician and the Ethics of Medicine" (Canvas) | Quiz 3 |
| 5 | M, 02/10 | Concerns of character | Miller et al, "Cosmetic Surgery and the Internal Morality of Medicine," (Canvas) | |
| | W, 02/12 | Introducing autonomy | BIOETHICS, pp. 38-40, "Kantian Ethics" and PBE pp. 99-154, "Respect for Autonomy" | Quiz 4 |
| 6 | M, 02/17 | Autonomy, cont. | PBE pp. 99-154, "Respect for Autonomy," cont. | |
| | W, 02/19 | Surrogate decision-making | PBE pp. 99-154, "Respect for Autonomy," cont. | Quiz 5 |
| 7 | M, 02/24 | Paternalism and decision-making | BIOETHICS, pp. 97-104, Complications with autonomy and PBE, "Paternalism," pp. 230-243. | |
| | W, 02/26 | Life-sustaining treatment and decision-making, cont. | "Withholding and Withdrawing LST," (Canvas) and Powell & Lowenstein, "Refusing LST After Catastrophic Injury" (Canvas) | CASE ANALYSIS 1 |
| 8 | M, 03/03 | | STUDY SESSION | |
| | W, 03/05 | MIDTERM | MIDTERM EXAM | MIDTERM EXAM |
| | SPRING BREAK | SPRING BREAK | SPRING BREAK | |

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|----|----------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 9 | M, 03/17 | Utilitarianism | BIOETHICS, pp. 36-38 "Utilitarianism" | |
| | W, 03/19 | Human research | BIOETHICS, pp. 271-284, "Human Research" | Quiz 6 |
| 10 | M, 03/24 | Human research, cont. | BIOETHICS, pp. 291-304, "The Nuremburg Code," "Declaration of Helsinki," "The Belmont Report," and "Final Report: Human Radiation Experiments" BIOETHICS, pp. 304-309, Hellman & Hellman, "Of Mice but Not Men" | |
| | W, 03/26 | Human research, cont. | Human research, cont. | Quiz 7 |
| 11 | M, 03/31 | Beneficence and nonmaleficence | PBE, pp. 202-226, "Beneficence" PBE, pp. 150-188, "Nonmaleficence" | |
| | W, 04/02 | End of life issues | BIOETHICS, pp. 648-658, Euthanasia and Assisted Dying | Quiz 8 |
| 12 | M, 04/07 | End of life, cont. | Tomlinson & Brody, "Ethics and Communication in DNR Orders" (Canvas) and Wicclair, "Medical Futility" (Canvas) | |
| | W, 04/09 | End of life, cont. | Mappes, "Some Reflections on Advance Directives" (Canvas) | CASE ANALYSIS 2 |
| 13 | M, 04/14 | Justice | PBE, pp. 249-270, "Justice" | |
| | W, 04/16 | Resource distribution | BIOETHICS, pp. 743-754, "Dividing up Health Care Resources" | Quiz 9 |

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|----|---------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 14 | M, 04/21 | Justice and resource distribution, cont. | Justice and resource distribution, cont. | |
| | W, 04/23 | Racial disparities in healthcare | Reading TBD | Quiz 10 |
| 15 | M, 04/28 | | Grad student presentations | GRAD STUDENT PRESENTATIONS & PAPER |
| | W, 04/30 | | STUDY SESSION | |
| | MON 05/05, 7:45 am. | FINAL EXAM | FINAL EXAM, MONDAY, 05/05, 7:45 am. | FINAL EXAM |
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