

City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

Open Educational Resources

CUNY School of Professional Studies

2021

PHIL 201: Bioethics

CUNY School of Professional Studies

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/sps_oers/9

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).
Contact: AcademicWorks@cuny.edu

CUNY School of Professional Studies

PHIL 201: Bioethics

Program: General Education

Type of Course: Flexible Core – Individual and Society (D); No pre- or co-requisites

Field of Study: Any Undergraduate Major

Credits: 3 Credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exploration of complex contemporary ethical problems from healthcare, the environment, and bioethics. Issues include problems of drugs and addiction, stigma toward people with disabilities, terminal illness and chronic health needs, resource allocation in times of disaster, infectious diseases, gene editing, and humans' relationship with their environment. Classical and contemporary ethical theories, moral theories, and the fundamentals of scientific integrity will be applied to make principled, defensible, moral judgments.

FLEXIBLE CORE AREA AND LEARNING OUTCOMES – Individual and Society (D)

Students will:

1. Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
2. Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.
3. Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
4. Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology.
5. Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.
6. Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises.
7. Articulate ethical uses of data and other information resources to respond to problems and questions.
8. Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.

This course will address all Learning Outcomes.

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

1. Identify and explain the foundations of various moral theories, including utilitarianism, relativism, virtue ethics, human rights, and deontology.
2. Compare the foundations of various moral theories, and theories of distributive justice.
3. Apply moral theories to problems of medicine, allied healthcare, biomedical research and health-related environmental issues.
4. Formulate methodical and evidence-based ethical argumentation through written work.

5. Evaluate various ethical positions, including unspoken or unarticulated assumptions and values that underlie those positions.

REQUIRED TEXTS

This is a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) course. All required readings will be provided free of charge through the course site.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Board

Discussions consider ethical theories and their applicability to case studies that issues such as informed consent in research, forced use of pharmaceutical prescriptions for people with mental health disabilities, institutionalization, end-of-life scenarios, gene editing therapy in humans and non-human beings by considering both sides of an issue and by applying classical and contemporary moral and ethical theories used to justify the morality of an issue.

Discussions Boards assess Flexible Core Learning Outcomes 1-3 and 6-7 and Discipline Specific Learning Outcomes 1-5.

Larger Writing Assignment/Reflections

You will have three larger writing assignments that are topic-based reflections at three different weeks during the semester. These will be worth 8 points each and your instructor will provide writing prompts relevant to case studies and the practical application of ethical theories to the case studies. The third larger writing assignment outlines your final ethical issue paper due later in the course. Each of these larger writing assignments are due on the Sunday of the weeks noted in the schedule. *Will address Flexible Core LOs 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8.*

Final Bioethical Issue Project: Paper and Presentation

Toward the end of the course, you will develop an ethical analysis paper and present a video and voice over PowerPoint presentation which summarizes this paper and the ethical dilemma covered in it. You will earn up to 24 points for the paper and up to 10 points for the final presentation, plus up to 3 points for feedback to others on their presentations. *Will address Flexible Core LOs 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8.*

Discussions, exercises, reflective writing assignments, aimed at developing skills in critical thinking and analysis.

GRADING

The course is based on a 100-point system. The course outline and point values for each assignment are shown below. Note the due dates for each assignment and the points assigned.

Point Percentage Breakdown

- 39% Participation in class discussions and activities, addressing learning objectives described above (13 posts, each worth three points)
- 24% Three (3) writing assignments supporting the overall development of a longer ethical position paper due in full at the end of the semester explaining both sides of an ethical issue (8 points each). The third larger writing assignment outlines your final ethical issue paper due later in the course.
- 37% Final full ethical issue paper and presentation to class (24 points for ethical analysis paper; 10 points for the final presentation; 3 points for feedback to others)

100% Total for Class

You MUST meet the deadlines for each assignment. Remember, every week that you do not do your postings will result in *lost points* for your overall grade. All posts are entered in the Discussion Board section, while most written assignments are uploaded in the Assignments tab. Your instructor will remind you when larger assignments are due and where to put them.

Assignments and Course materials are also listed in the **WEEKLY MATERIALS** link on Blackboard.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION

A	93-100	A-	90-92.9		
B+	87-89.9	B	83-86.9	B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9	C	73-76.9	C-	70-72.9
D	60-69.9	F	Below 60		

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The CUNY School of Professional Studies is firmly committed to making higher education accessible to students with disabilities by removing architectural barriers and providing programs and support services necessary for them to benefit from the instruction and resources of the University. Early planning is essential for many of the resources and accommodations provided. Please see: [Disability Services on the CUNY SPS Website](#)

ONLINE ETIQUETTE AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The University strictly prohibits the use of University online resources or facilities, including Blackboard, for the purpose of harassment of any individual or for the posting of any material that is scandalous, libelous, offensive or otherwise against the University's policies. Please see: ["Netiquette in an Online Academic Setting: A Guide for CUNY School of Professional Studies Students."](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The School of Professional Studies has adopted the view that academic integrity is a critical characteristic of all of our academic programs and that maintenance of academic integrity requires the that all members of the SPS community play an active and positive role. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts

undermine the educational mission of the City University of New York and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Please see: [Academic Integrity on the CUNY SPS Website](#).

TUTORING

CUNY SPS offers all students a variety of tutoring services, free of charge, both online and in person. Please see: [Tutoring](#).

HELP DESK

For assistance with access to CUNY SPS and CUNY computing resources, please see the [Help Desk website](#) for contact details and semester hours.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The School of Professional Studies offers a wide variety of academic support students for students, including online tutorial services in most courses, career guidance, and a robust array of online and in-person library services. For more information about these services, please visit [Student Support Services](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
Week #1	Introductions and philosophical terminology	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #2	What comprises bioethics? Why do I care about bioethics?	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm Writing Assignment #1 due Sunday 11:59pm	3 8
Week #3	Consequentialism and its Outcomes	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #4	Are People Obligated to Follow Duty? What is deontology?	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #5	What is Relativism? Is it the Same?	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #6	What Kind of Person is Virtuous?	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm Writing Assignment #2: due Sunday 11:59pm	3 8
Week #7	Evaluating Evidence for Arguments	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #8	How do we prioritize for triage?	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #9	Who can pull the plug? Death for the weary.	Posts: Due by Wednesday and Sunday before midnight Writing Assignment #3 (Final Project Outline): due Sunday 11:59pm	3 8
Week #10	The Ethics of Drug Use, Addiction	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #11	Healthcare workers' Oaths	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #12	Forced Psychiatric Medications	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
Week #13	Environmental Topics	Discussion: Initial post due by Wednesday 11:59pm and peer responses by Sunday 11:59pm	3
Week #14	Final Bioethical Presentation Due	Post Screencast-o-Matic video to Discussion by Wednesday 11:59pm and give significant feedback/suggestions to peers by Sunday 11:59pm	13
Week #15	Final Bioethical Issue Paper Due Course Feedback and Questions	Post Issue Paper Sunday 11:59pm Last Discussion (optional): Course Reflections, Feedback and Questions due Wednesday 11:59pm	24 0
			100