

**Syllabus for PHI 3633: Bioethics**  
**Class number 24204**  
**Dr. Molly Gardner**  
**University of Florida, Fall 2024**

**COURSE MEETINGS:**

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:40 – 11:30 a.m. **Matherly 113**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR DR. GARDNER:**

Email: [mollygardner@ufl.edu](mailto:mollygardner@ufl.edu)  
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Office phone: 352-294-0426  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3 – 5 p.m.  
Office Hours Sign-Up Sheet: <http://bit.ly/2vYpCmI>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Bioethics is the study of ethical issues involving the biological and medical sciences. It includes questions about how health care providers ought to treat their patients; how medical researchers ought to set up and carry out their studies; and how everyone ought to treat present and future generations of human and nonhuman life forms. This course will equip you with some of the concepts, skills, and information you will need in order to think critically about these and related questions.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

You do not need to purchase any required or recommended textbooks for this course. All required and recommended readings will be available on our Canvas website.

**COURSE GOALS:**

“*Knowledge That*”:

- Better understand some of the central developments in the field of bioethics

“*Knowledge How*”:

- Improve your ability to read for arguments, reconstruct the arguments you have read, and evaluate the arguments you have reconstructed
- Improve your ability to reason about moral theories, arguments, and issues
- Improve your ability to express yourself in speech and writing with clarity, depth, and precision

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

<b>4 Quizzes:</b> 10 points each, lowest grade dropped (30 points total) <i>Each quiz will consist of 4 multiple-choice questions and 3 short-answer questions.</i>	<b>Attendance and Participation:</b> 10 points <i>(See chart on next page)</i>
<b>2 Papers:</b> 65 points each (130 points total) <i>Each paper should be between 1000 and 1200 words.</i>	<b>Final Exam:</b> 30 points <i>The final exam will consist of 4 multiple-choice questions, 3 short-answer questions, and 2 short essay questions.</i>

**Total:** 200 points

- **Extra Credit:** You will have the opportunity to get up to 3 extra credit points over the course of the semester. Information about extra credit opportunities will be posted periodically on Canvas.

**DETERMINING YOUR SEMESTER GRADE:**

A	186 to 200 points
A-	180 to 185 points
B+	172 to 179 points
B	164 to 171 points
B-	160 to 163 points
C+	152 to 159 points
C	144 to 151 points
C-	140 to 143 points
D+	132 to 139 points
D	124 to 131 points
D-	120 to 123 points
E	0 to 119 points

Please note that your course grade is determined by points, not percentages, and that all points have equal weight, regardless of the assignment. Canvas is sometimes misleading when it tells you what “percentage grade” it thinks you have; if you are in doubt about what your true course grade is going to be, ***ignore the percentage that Canvas gives you*** and simply calculate the number of points you have earned and the number of points you can still earn, keeping in mind that I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

**UNIVERSITY GRADING POLICIES:**

For information on how your grade for this course will be averaged with your grades in other courses at the University of Florida, see the following: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> . Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION GRADE:**

This semester our class will meet 39 times. Five absences will be ***automatically excused***, but any additional absences will lower your attendance and participation grade according to the following chart: (Remember that attendance and participation are worth 10 points out of 200 for the semester.)

	Poor participation	Excellent participation
0 absences	8	10
1 absence	8	10
2 absences	8	10
3 absences	8	10
4 absences	8	10
5 absences	8	10
6 absences	7	9
7 absences	6	7
8 absences	5	6
9 absences	4	5
10 or more absences	0 to 3	4

There is almost never a need to email me to have your absences excused. I do not need to know why you were gone. As the chart above illustrates, 5 absences are *automatically* excused no matter what reason you had to be absent, and any additional absences will lower your attendance and participation grade *regardless of your reason for being absent*.

There is one exception to this policy: in a case where at least *six* of your absences are justified by what the university deems to be “acceptable reasons,” please email me, and I will consider evaluating you on participation only. Please see the University of Florida’s policy for a list of acceptable reasons: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. **This exception does not apply when fewer than six of your absences are for good reasons.** For example, if you had good reasons for being absent 4 times but were absent a total of 7 times, then the exception does not apply to you, and your maximum attendance/participation grade is 7 out of 10, as the chart above indicates. Absences due to illness or to adding this class after the first day are treated as described above, exactly like any other absences.

#### **LATE PAPERS OR MISSED QUIZZES:**

If you miss only one quiz, you will receive a 0 for that quiz, but remember that your lowest quiz grade is dropped. If you miss more than one quiz, please email me, and I will consider allowing you to take a make-up quiz.

If you miss the deadline or anticipate that you *will* miss the deadline for a paper, please email me *as soon as possible*, and I will consider whether to grant you an extension. I reserve the right to deduct between 0 and 10 points from a paper grade for lateness.

#### **WORKING WITH OTHERS:**

Although you are free to study for quizzes and the exam with other students, your work on the quizzes and exams must be your own. You may also discuss your paper ideas with me or other students. For help brainstorming, formatting, and writing your papers, you are welcome to take drafts of your papers to me or to the writing studio. However, you must ultimately write your papers on your own, and you must cite your sources. Any citation style—MLA, Chicago, APA, or some variation—is acceptable. For information about how to avoid plagiarism, see the handouts I have uploaded to the non-required readings folder on Canvas. Please note that you can bring me as many drafts of your papers as you like. However, I do not give *written* feedback on drafts—instead, I will provide you with *oral feedback* only, which means that you must come to a Zoom or in-person meeting with me to get feedback.

You are not permitted to use ChatGPT or any other form of artificial intelligence for assistance completing any of the work for this class.

#### **HONOR CODE:**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions; for more information see this page: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. You are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with me or your TA.

#### **COURSE EVALUATIONS:**

At the end of the semester, you are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback is here: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. You will be notified when the official evaluation period opens, and you can complete evaluations through the email you receive from GatorEvals, in your Canvas course

menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to you here: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

*This schedule is tentative. Please check Canvas for updates.*

Date	What we will do in class	Reading (to be done before class)
8/23/24	Introduction to Bioethics	None
8/26/24	Methods of Bioethics: Deductive Arguments	<b>David Boonin &amp; Graham Oddie</b> , <i>What's Wrong? Applied Ethicists and Their Critics</i> (excerpt 1)
8/28/24	Methods of Bioethics: Non-Deductive Arguments	<b>David Boonin &amp; Graham Oddie</b> , <i>What's Wrong? Applied Ethicists and Their Critics</i> (excerpt 2)
8/30/24	Methods of Bioethics	None
9/2/24	<b>Labor Day: No Class</b>	
9/4/24	Methods of Bioethics: Formulating Moral Principles	None
9/6/24	Methods of Bioethics: The Four Principles	<b>Alastair Campbell</b> , <i>Bioethics: The Basics</i> (excerpt)
9/9/24	<b>Quiz 1 due at 10:40 a.m.</b> Euthanasia	<b>Margaret Battin</b> , "The Case for Euthanasia"
9/11/24	Euthanasia	None
9/13/24	Euthanasia	<b>James Rachels</b> , "Active and Passive Euthanasia"
9/16/24	Euthanasia	<b>Thomas Sullivan</b> , "Active and Passive Euthanasia: An Impertinent Distinction?"
9/18/24	Euthanasia	None
9/20/24	Physician Assisted Suicide	<b>J.M. Dieterle</b> , "Physician Assisted Suicide: A New Look at the Arguments"
9/23/24	Abortion	<b>Mary Anne Warren</b> , "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion"
9/25/24	Abortion	None
9/27/24	Abortion	<b>Don Marquis</b> , "Why Abortion Is Immoral"
9/30/24	<b>Quiz 2 due at 10:40 a.m.</b> Abortion	None
10/2/24	Abortion	<b>Judith Thomson</b> , "A Defense of Abortion"
10/4/24	Abortion	None

	<b>Paper 1 due Sunday, October 6 at 11:59 p.m.</b>	
10/7/24	Medical Research	<b>Allen Buchanan</b> , “The Case of the Human Radiation Experiments”
10/9/24	Medical Research	None
10/11/24	Medical Research	<b>Gregory Pence</b> , “Human Subjects: The Tuskegee Study”
10/14/24	Medical Research	<b>Marcia Angell</b> , “The Ethics of Clinical Research in the Third World”
10/16/24	Medical Research	<b>Danstan Bagenda and Philippa Musoke-Mudido</b> , “We’re Trying to Help Our Sickest People, Not Exploit Them”
10/18/24	<b>Homecoming: No Class</b>	
10/21/24	<b>Quiz 3 due at 10:40 a.m.</b> Animal Ethics	<b>Carl Cohen</b> , “Do Animals Have Rights?”
10/23/24	Animal Ethics	<b>Tom Regan</b> , “Reply to Carl Cohen”
10/25/24	Animal Ethics	<b>None</b>
10/28/24	Autonomy	<b>Richard Momeyer</b> , “The Limits of Personal Autonomy: The Case of Donald/Dax Cowart”
10/30/24	Autonomy	<b>Ronald Dworkin</b> , “Life Past Reason”
11/1/24	Autonomy	None
11/4/24	<b>Quiz 4 due at 10:40 a.m.</b> Autonomy	<b>Stephen D. Mallery, Bernard Gert, and Charles M. Culver</b> , “Family Coercion and Valid Consent”
11/6/24	Autonomy	<b>David Boonin</b> , <i>Sexual Ethics and Problematic Consent: When Does Yes Mean No?</i> (excerpt)
11/8/24	Autonomy	None
11/11/24	<b>Veterans Day: No Class</b>	
11/13/24	Healthcare Rationing	<b>Leslie P. Scheunemann and Douglas B. White</b> , “The Ethics and Reality of Rationing in Medicine”
11/15/24	Healthcare Rationing	<b>Norman Daniels</b> , “Is There a Right to Health Care, and if so, What Does It Encompass?”
	<b>Paper 2 due Sunday, November 17 at 11:59 p.m.</b>	
11/18/24	Healthcare Rationing	<b>Alexander Zambrano</b> , “Why Alcoholics Ought to Compete Equally for Liver Transplants”
11/20/24	To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest
11/22/24	To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest

11/25/2024- 11/27/2024	<b>Thanksgiving Break: No Class</b>	
12/2/24	To be determined by class interest	To be determined by class interest
12/4/24	Review for Final exam; Lessons from the Course	None

*The Final Exam will be due on Canvas on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 12 p.m.*