

BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

Philosophy 249, Rutgers University (Camden), Fall 2022

- Section 93
- T/TH 8:00 - 9:20 AM
- Armitage Hall 223

Dr. Patrick Denehy

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- Office Hours: By appointment, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM T/TH, 429 Cooper, 3rd Floor

Required Texts

- *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine*, 8th edition, edited by Steinbock, London, and Arras (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2013). Available for free through Canvas and [Rutgers Library](#).
- All other texts also available through Canvas.

Legitimate Online Resources

- [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)
- [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

Catalog Description

Exploration of moral issues in medicine and medical research. The course will typically focus on issues raised by the creation and termination of life and includes topics such as abortion, stem cell research, cloning, prenatal screening for disability, right to medical care, human experimentation, genetic enhancement and eugenics, animal experimentation, the diagnosis of death, and euthanasia.

Grades

- Attendance 20 p
- Journals (10) 20 p
- Quizzes (12) 60 p
- Total 100 points

Attendance

Attendance and participation are expected. You begin with full credit (20 points) and lose 2 points for each unexcused absence. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet.

Excused absences will only be granted for EMAILED AND DOCUMENTED reasons. These typically include severe illness (health center or doctor's note), covid-19 infection (university protocol), or athletic events (coach or team note). I will not grant excused absences for any old emailed reason. In borderline cases, attendance is up to my discretion. Also, I may bump grades for exceptional participation in class.

Deadlines

All deadlines are flexible except the final deadline at the end of the course. You will not be penalized for "late" work. I care more that you put effort into each journal and quiz to the best of your ability, rather than meeting an arbitrary deadline.

Nevertheless, a GOOD RECOMMENDATION is to complete each survey and quiz soon after each week's class and before moving to the subsequent week's material. That will keep you on pace in the course.

Journals

There will be weekly online journals worth 2 points apiece. Written responses should be 1-2 substantive paragraphs.

You are expected to complete 10 journals, but there will be 12 available. If you complete extra journals, they will count as EXTRA CREDIT. No other extra credit will be offered.

Quizzes

Quizzes are intended to examine your knowledge of our recent readings. They will mostly consist of true-or-false and multiple-choice questions and are worth 5 points apiece. No timers. You can save your answers and return to a quiz later, but they only permit ONE SUBMISSION.

Grading Scale

A	90 – 100
B+	85 – 89
B	80 – 84
C+	75 – 79
C	70 – 74
D	60 – 69
F	<= 59

Documented Disability Statement

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form at <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

Academic Integrity

Rutgers University takes academic dishonesty very seriously. By enrolling in this course, you assume responsibility for familiarizing yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy and the possible penalties (including suspension and expulsion) for violating the policy. As per the policy, all suspected violations will be reported to the Office of Community Standards.

Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to): cheating; plagiarism; aiding others in committing a violation or allowing others to use your work; failure to cite sources correctly; fabrication; using another person's ideas or words without attribution; re-using a previous assignment; unauthorized collaboration; sabotaging another student's work. If in doubt, please consult the instructor. Please review the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Caveat

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, schedule, and grading schema as the circumstances dictate, or to adjust grade opportunities based on exceptional and documented reasons. Any significant changes will be relayed to you in advance.