

**LAW & ETHICS IN LIFE SCIENCES
FALL 2008
BIO 4073**

TEXTS: 1) Principles of Biomedical Ethics, 5th Ed., T.L. Beauchamp & J.F. Childress ISBN 0-19-514332-9

2) Crimes Against Nature:... Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. ISBN 0060746874

OBJECTIVE: Gain knowledge of Legal and Ethical Decision-Making in Life Sciences; Attain a recognizable growth in ethical decision-making process.

INSTRUCTOR: Clyde Phelix, Ph.D., All correspondence via Blackboard Mailbox

OFFICE HOURS: As arranged via contact through Blackboard.

<u>WEEK/DATES</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
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MODULE I: BASIC CONCEPTS AND VIEWS OF ETHICAL THEORY

01 Aug 27	Definitions, Nature of Philosophy and Ethics	1
02 Sept 1&3	Ethics, Morality and Judgement	2
03 Sept 8&10	Justification, Truth, and Principles	9
04 Sept 15&16	Types of Moral Theories	8
05 Sept 22&24	Types of Moral Theories	8
*06 Sept 29	MONDAY.....EXAM I	

MODULE II: BASIC PRINCIPLES OF BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

06 Sept/Oct	Autonomy	3
07 Oct 6&8	Nonmaleficence	4
08 Oct 13&15	Beneficence	5
09 Oct 20&22	Justice	6
*09 Oct 22	WEDNESDAY.....EXAM 2	

Note: Some Case Studies will be included in this module and will be announced on a daily basis.

MODULE III: RULES AND VIRTUES

10 Oct 27&29	Professional-Patient Relationships	7
11 Nov 3&5	Research Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research	*
12 Nov 10&12	Virtues and Ideals in Professional Life	8
*13 Nov 17	MONDAY.....EXAM 3	

MODULE IV: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS (Second Text and **)

13 Nov 17&19	Introduction and Indications for Intervention	1-3
14 Nov 24&28	Politics and Law, Measuring Values	4-6
15 Dec 1 & 3	Plants, Animals, Humans, Who is protected and how?	7-9
16 Dec 12 Friday	FINAL EXAMS (Fri, Dec 12, 07:30 am - 10:00 am; EXAM 4)	

Ten Quizzes will be administered on-line through the Blackboard course site. There will be 10 questions on each and they will cover the assigned readings from the textbooks. They will be announced through Blackboard Mailbox on the course site and made available for only a brief period of time before the corresponding Exam.

Exams 1 through 3 will be comprised of 50 multiple choice questions (see below) and Exam 4 will be an on-line exam with 75 questions of a variety of styles including matching, fill-in-the-blank, and a short essay on a specified Environmental Ethics topic, utilizing The Toulmin Model of Argumentation. [The essay can be prepared prior to on-line testing.]

* Web source(s) will be provided via Blackboard course site.
** Additionally, various web sites will be utilized as resources to supplement discussions and cases on topics such as "The Green Movement", "Foodborne Pathogens", "Genetically Modified Foods", and "Environmental Law".

OTHER TEXTBOOKS:

1. Clinical Ethics. A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine, 4th Ed. A.R. Jonsen, M.Siegler, W.J. Winslade. McGraw-Hill Health Professions Division: New York 1998 ISBN 0-07-033120-0
2. A Guide to Argumentative Writing by Byron L. Stay
3. Health Care in America by Carol Wekesser
4. Global Resources by Matthew Polesetsky

GRADING:	EXAMS	4 -	60%	(Final Exam is #4, <u>NONE ARE CUMULATIVE</u>)
	ESSAYS	1 -	5%	(Exam 4, must have components of Toulmin Model)
	QUIZZES	10-	10%	(Each Quiz is worth 1% toward final grade.)
	ASSIGNMENTS	3 -	10%	(Assignment 2 = 8%; 1&3 each worth 1%)
	ATTENDANCE		<u>15%</u>	(on-line participation required; ONCE PER WEEK)
			100%	

Final letter grade is based upon standard scale: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; etc.

There are alternate titles for the four (4) modules in this course [I. Conceptual Basis of Law and Ethics; II. Medical Ethics and Related Laws; III. Research Ethics and Related Laws; IV. Environmental Ethics]. This is noted to allow room for additional in-class discussions that will supplement recorded and face-to-face lectures posted on the course web site. The performance of student participants will be assessed by four mechanisms. 1) Verbal reasoning and basic knowledge style multiple choice questions on ten quizzes and four exams; 2) One essay on a specific writing style; 3) Three assignments that will challenge your resourcefulness and ability to work as a team and communicate effectively; 4) Attendance and participation.

1) Exams 1-3 will be comprised of at least 15 multiple choice questions based on reading passages copied from a variety of ethics books or other sources and the remainder of the questions will be primarily multiple choice from lecture notes. Some fill-in-the-blank questions might be included. Exam 4 is described in sufficient detail above on page 1.

2) Essay: (equivalent to a one-page document with 1 inch margins on each side, you will submit it on-line as part of Exam 4; bibliography required)

- 1 -A Tolumen Model, argumentative essay covering a controversial issue of environment related ethics

3)Assignments: (#1 due on September 12; #3 due on November 26 - these will be posted and submitted through the on-line Blackboard course site.)

- 1 -Select five ethical issues in medical, research, or environmental sciences:
 - describe each issue and list bibliography and other resources
 - identify 3 of greatest interest to yourself and provide at least five sentences of explanation
- 2 - One on-line class debate: [You will use the Blackboard "Discussion" function on the course site for this assignment.] Pair off with at least five debate partners (this depends on class size for the current semester), select an issue, prepare statements of opposition one from each partner. Post as a Discussion on the course web site and monitor class participation where each class member must write at least one supportive argument for the issue.
- 3 -List 3 controversial laws concerning each of modules II, III and IV. Delineate population targeted and potential good and/or bad outcomes. Provide complete bibliography and other sources.

4)Attendance/participation: You must participate in ALL on-line 'debate' Discussions. The partners must report to the instructor a list of names of participants for their particular Discussion.

OPTIONAL: Research report using Texts as resources to find a critical issue in medical, animal, or plant research. Outline is due September 24 with working bibliography; first draft due October 15; final copy due December 3; the intention is to provide feedback for one final revision due on day of final exam. (15 pages; 5 points)

Policy sheet

Attendance

Attendance of face to face lectures is a personal responsibility and will also be assessed for the on-line participation and performance assessment completions. Be committed to regular visits, viewing, reading, and studying because performance assessments will be administered on time! You should treat this course as a M, W course - as those will be the days the instructor will definitely be checking Blackboard Mailbox, and sending or receiving messages; every effort will be made by the instructor to visit the Blackboard course each morning. Be sure to view the Blackboard posted lectures, you might miss tips for the exams.

Missed quizzes and exams

There are NO make-up quizzes! Make-up exams may be essay exams of extreme difficulty. You must make up an exam within **2 calendar days** (excluding weekends) of the scheduled day of the exam unless you and I have made other arrangements. Leave a message with the Department office (458-4458) if you cannot reach me in person or by email.

Missed final

You will receive a grade of "I" (incomplete for a postponed final) if you make prior arrangements. Otherwise, if I have not heard from you within 1 day after the final, you will receive a zero for the final.

Cheating (See <http://www.utsa.edu/ucat/InfoGuide/Chapter5/register.htm> for Student Code of Conduct)

I expect you to be honest. **Cheating includes**, but is not limited to:

- 1) using notes during an exam**
- 2) looking at on line materials while taking the exam**
- 3) looking at another's or letting someone look at your exam**

Dropping the course

Check both the Blackboard and UTSA Academic Calendar to know what is the last day to drop and still get a grade of "W". You must take responsibility for dropping the class. You do not need my signature if you drop by the drop date. You **cannot** drop after the drop date simply because of low grades.