APHI 517 – Bioethics (#9475)

Location: Online course offered completely through Blackboard Learning System

Instructor: Bonnie Steinbock

This is an advanced course in philosophical bioethics, which presupposes a general knowledge of its central themes. (Students who have not fulfilled the prerequisite – Phi 338, Moral Problems in Medicine – are expected to get the recommended text by Steinbock, Arras, and London, eds., Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine, and read the Introduction: Moral Reasoning in the Medical Context, and the introductions to Parts Four and Five.)

The course is conducted completely online using Blackboard. The final grade is based on online discussion forum (30%), weekly short essays (30%) and a term paper (40%).

I anticipate that each student will need to dedicate at least 12 hours per week to the course, including assigned lectures and readings, written assignments, and discussion forum participation.

The focus of the course is reproductive ethics. We begin with the notion of procreative liberty, understood as the right to make one’s own reproductive decisions, whether to have or avoid having offspring. We first consider abortion, a means of avoiding reproduction. Abortion raises two philosophical topics: the moral standing of the unborn and the nature and scope of the pregnant woman’s obligation to the unborn.

The second topic is the right to reproduce, to have biologically related offspring as it relates to assisted reproductive technology (ART). Do infertile people have a right to ART? Should ART be limited to infertility? Which social concerns, if any, justify limiting individuals’ access to ART? Should individuals be able to contract with others for the use of their reproductive parts or functions, as in commercial gamete donation and surrogate motherhood?

The third topic concerns decisions about which people will be born. In this section, we discuss prenatal testing and selective abortion, and preimplantation genetic diagnosis and embryo discard. This topic brings up the disability critique, and the claim that prenatal testing is morally problematic because of the harmful effects it has on existing people with disabling conditions.

The fourth topic is the morality of genetic enhancement to change the characteristics of unborn and unconceived children. The fifth topic is “wrongful life”: whether children can be harmed by being brought into the world under certain adverse social or physical conditions. If this is possible, what are the implications for responsible procreative decision making? Shared resource with PHI 417.
**APHI 525 – Contemporary Ethical Theory (#9477)**

TuTh 1:15PM – 2:35PM  
Location: PC-263  
Instructor: Jason D’Cruz

In contemporary analytical philosophy, there are three dominant ways to understand the ethical dimension of human life: consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics (a.k.a. character ethics). All three have intuitive appeal, but they analyze good and evil, right and wrong, and other ethical concepts in seemingly incompatible ways. This course considers some of the contemporary conflicts between the three types of theories and some of the most interesting and subtle criticisms that are leveled at each type in the contemporary debate. Most assigned works were written since 1970. Philosophers whose work we will study include Bernard Williams, Philippa Foot, Christine Korsgaard, Michael Stocker, Stephen Darwall, and Rosalind Hursthouse. Much of the course will be discussion driven, and students will be required to prepare structured oral presentations. The readings for this course assume some background in ethical theory and its history. If you are unsure about whether you have requisite background, please come and talk to me.

**APHI 542 – PHENOMENOLOGY (#9476)**

MoWeFr 12:35PM – 1:30PM  
Location: BA-233  
Instructor: Ron McClamrock

This course examines the historical and conceptual development of phenomenology in the 20th century, starting with Husserl’s "presuppositionless and purely descriptive science of the structures of consciousness", and including works by Sartre, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty. We’ll emphasize (a) the idea of a presuppositionless account of consciousness; (b) the motivations for and nature of the "existential turn", and (c) connections between phenomenology and both analytic philosophy and scientific psychology.

Grades will be based on 2 of 3 exams, 2 short papers, and a combination of in-class and online participation.

Note: Undergraduates should sign up for PHI 442; graduate students should sign up for PHI 542.

More information can be found on the course web page at [http://profron.net/phi542](http://profron.net/phi542).

**APHI 554 – KANT AND CONTINENTAL IDEALISM (#9478)**

Tu 5:45PM – 8:35PM  
Location: HU-112  
Instructor: Robert Howell

The course provides a grounding in nineteenth century idealism through an intensive study of Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*.

The course will be conducted through lectures and discussion in seminar format.

Work and Basis of Grading: three short papers analyzing the text.
FALL 2014 GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

APHI 574 – CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (#9490)
MoWe 2:45PM – 4:05PM
Location: AS-15
Instructor: Jon Mandle

This course will focus on the work of John Rawls and some of his critics. We will read his book, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*, and then a series of articles and book chapters discussing various aspects of his theory. Grading will be based on two papers and class participation. **Shared resource with PHI 474.**

APHI 612 – TOPICS IN METAPHYSICS (PROSEMINAR IN METAPHYSICS) (#9481)
Mo 5:45PM – 8:35PM
Location: LC-12
Instructor: Bradley Armour-Garb

This course is designed to introduce first- and second-year graduate students to some central issues in metaphysics. Although Professor Armour-Garb is the main instructor, it is expected that other faculty members will sit in on, and will participate in, a number of the seminars.