

PHIL3340 Biomedical Ethics
Mr. David Paul

Contact Information

Email: david.paul@wmich.edu; Phone: 387-4390 (department phone)
Office Hours (3021 Moore): Mondays and Thursdays 4:45 to 5:15

Course Objective and Methods

My main objective is to foster in the students a greater appreciation of the modern moral issues in medicine and the biological sciences. The topics may include abortion, euthanasia, uses of genetics, cloning, and medical experimentation. Although reading and lecture will be the primary methods, it is imperative that the students interact. Every student brings a wealth of life experiences to a subject like this, and if you don't volunteer your own experiences and opinions, the class will be much poorer for that lack.

Reading Materials

Intervention and Reflection, 9th ed. by Munson. (Since some of you will ask: yes, it is possible to “get by” using the 8th edition of the text; however, *you* (not the instructor) will be responsible for knowing material I assign that isn't in the edition you have, and *you* (not the instructor) will have to learn which pages and chapters in your book correspond to the pages and chapters in the assigned text).

Grading

Your grade will be based primarily on two factors: test scores and attendance. If you are in the Honors College, then a paper will be required as a third factor. Your attendance will be taken during both lecture and discussion sections. If you are not in the Honors College, your final grade will be 75% from your tests and 25% from your attendance. If you are in the Honors College, your final grade will be 60% from your tests, 20% from your attendance and 20% from your paper. More details will be provided in class and online.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percent
4.0	90%
3.5	85%
3.0	80%
2.5	75%
2.0	70%
1.5	65%
1.0	60%

Make-Up Work

I will allow a test to be made up *in exceptional circumstances only*. If you miss a test and your circumstances are exceptional, contact me by email to arrange a make-up. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a test, contact me for arrangements. (Examples of exceptional circumstances: religious observances, death of a family member or close friend, sudden illness, verifiable car accident. Examples of unacceptable circumstances: forgot test date, fight with a friend, dog ate your book.) I really, *really* do not like to give incompletes—if it's looking like you won't be able to complete the semester, please consider dropping the course and taking it another term.

Classroom Disruptions

Turn cell phones and beepers off unless you are an emergency worker. Don't fall asleep in class. Feel free to bring a snack or a drink if the building's policies permit doing so for the room, but please do not disrupt others. There will be breaks, but if you need to leave the room at another time, please be courteous as you leave the room.

Cancellations

I live about 50 miles away and bad weather might force me to cancel class; but I've commuted for more than 15 years and I have an excellent record of attendance so don't bet on it. If I do miss class, a note will be posted on the classroom door.

Cheating

I've caught students cheating before. The university demands strict adherence to its policies and I enforce them. The University has rules regarding cheating and explains the rights of accused students. Please visit [WMU's web page on the student conduct](#) for more information.

Other

Please feel free to email me with any questions you have. I can usually get information across just as well in an email as I can during an office visit, and my office hours tend to be a bit restrictive for students since I commute. This course satisfies General Education Area VII: Natural Science and Technology: Applications and Implications.

Accommodation for Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices. A disability determination must be made by this office before any accommodations are provided by the instructor.

Accommodation for Religious Observance

I follow [WMU's religious observances policy](#) and permit absences that are consistent with that policy.

Student Academic Conduct

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

Disclaimer

I reserve the right to make any changes to the course (content, grading, etc.). Further, I reserve the right to establish fair procedures for grading for students in exceptional cases. All and any modifications to this syllabus will be in accordance with the rules and regulations of WMU. This syllabus does NOT constitute a contract between any combination of the instructor, the students or WMU.

Estimated Readings and Topics List

You need to have the assigned reading finished before you come to class that day. This reading includes the entire chapter each night, not just the focus authors listed below.

Thursday	Reading Material (subject)
Jan. 12	Introduction to philosophy, ethics, and medical ethics (Part VI in the text)
Jan. 19	Chapter 5 (abortion)
Jan. 26	Chapter 6 (impaired infants)
Feb. 2	Chapter 7 (euthanasia)
Feb. 9	Test 1
Feb. 16	Chapter 1 (autonomy and confidentiality)
Feb. 23	Chapter 2 (research ethics and informed consent)
Mar. 1	Chapter 3 (genetic control)
Mar. 8	SPRING BREAK
Mar. 15	Chapter 4 (reproductive control)
Mar. 22	Test 2
Mar. 29	Chapter 8 (organ transplants and scarce medical resources)
Apr. 5	Chapter 9 (distributing health care)
Apr. 12	Chapters 10 and 11 (women and African American issues in medicine)
Apr. 19	Chapter 12 (AIDS and HIV)
Apr. 26	Final exam will START at 7:15pm and END at 9:15pm

3340 Thurs 5:30-8:00, 3512 Knauss – Lecture

3340 Thurs 8:10-9:00, 3512 Knauss – Mr. Paul's Discussion