Syllabus  
PHIL 3713 – 001: Ethics in the Health Care Professions (14175)  
Spring, 2023

1. LOGISTICS

Dr. Cave  
Meeting times: TR 9:30-10:45  
Location: Humanities and Social Sciences 1018  
Office: recurring *Zoom* meeting room, you can find the link in the *Eric Cave’s Zoom Office* tab in *BlackBoard*  
OH: TR 10:45-12:15, and by appt. (See below for a description of how office hours work.)  
Office phone: 972-2130  
Email: [ecave@astate.edu](mailto:ecave@astate.edu)  
Course page: Blackboard

2. TEXT

Ronald Munson and Ian Lague, *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Bioethics*, 10th Edition (Boston: Cengage Publishing, 2017), ISBN 978-1-305-50840-8

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Examination of the moral and conceptual issues raised in the practice of medicine and attendant medical technology.

4. COURSE GOALS/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

*Program Outcomes:*

This course contributes to the following program-level outcomes:

1. Students will understand central issues and theories in philosophy, from among the major areas of metaphysics, epistemology, and value theory. (Level: Reinforce.)  
2. Students will be able to analyze and explain complicated ideas. (Level: Reinforce.)   
3. Students will be able to analyze arguments. (Level: Reinforce.)  
4. Students will be able to evaluate arguments. (Level: Reinforce.)

*Student Learning Outcomes*:

Expected student learning outcomes are that students should be able to 1) articulate several of the most prominent contemporary concepts, principles, and theories of morality, 2) be able to apply these concepts, principles, and theories so as to illuminate several pressing moral problems arising within the health care professions.

*Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:*

SLOs will be assessed by means of an embedded exam question.

5. GRADING CRITERIA:

Your course grade will be a weighted average of the following:

In-class Group Exercises/*Blackboard* discussion forums: 25%  
Exam 1: 25%  
Exam 2: 25%  
Exam 3: 25%

*Description of Assignments:*

In-class group exercises are usually unannounced. We will have 15+ of them. If I have to miss a class to travel, an in-class discussion exercise will happen in a forum that I create in *Blackboard* during the time I am gone.

Exams 1, 2, and 3 are take-home essay exams. At least 1 week before each exam, I will give you a list of essay questions covering what we have explored in our reading questions, discussion boards, and other exercises. You will choose some of these questions and write short essays in response to each. Detailed assignment instructions and a grading rubric for these essays will be available in the *Assignments* content area. Take-home essay exams are to be turned in via *Blackboard*.

There may be a few extra credit assignments posted during the last third of the semester, with points awarded not to exceed 4% of the total points available in the course.

Course assignments will be distributed through the course’s *Blackboard* page, in the *Assignments* content area.

*Grading Scale:*

Your course grade will be determined by the above weighted average. I will assign a letter grade STRICTLY in accordance with the grading scale given below (rounding up with reference to the tenths place ONLY). I will not deviate from this policy in any case for any reason.

A…..90%-100%  
B…..80%-89%  
C…..70%-79%  
D…..60%-69%

6. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND ADMINISTRATION:

*Access and Accommodations Policy:*

If you have a disability that might make it difficult for you to succeed in this course, please contact me as soon as possible. Your privacy will be respected and every effort will be made to meet your needs. All students requesting accommodations for disabilities should be registered through A-State’s Access and Accommodations (870 972 3964). If the OAA determines that you should be able to take tests in their office, it is your responsibility to schedule the test for the same time and date as the exam is administered to other students.

*Academic Misconduct Policy:*

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs at Arkansas State University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Cheating is obtaining and/or using information in a fraudulent manner. Fabrication is making things up. Plagiarism is taking and/or using the ideas, work, or writings of another person as one’s own. To avoid plagiarism, you must always cite the ideas, work, or writings of other persons when using them within your own writing. All three are serious offenses against academic integrity that could result in failure for the assignment, and/or failure for the course, and/or expulsion from Arkansas State University. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, you should ask me.

*How office hours work:*

During my scheduled office hours, I will be at my computer, monitoring my email. Just email me and I will click you in to the *Zoom* office for drop-ins, or you can email me at a prior time with your preferred time and I can click you in at that time. I can do the same outside of office hours if you wish to make an appointment. I have set my *Zoom* office up so that you enter into a waiting room first, in case I am discussing something sensitive with another student. If I am not discussing something sensitive, I will often click in multiple students at once, because usually more minds are better than fewer when we are thinking about issues in a Philosophy course.

*Electronic Device Policy:*

You may use your electronic devices in class for class-related purposes: as a reader, as a means of checking things that I say, for retrieval of relevant data, etc. However, you may only use your electronic devices for class-related purposes. To be clear, do not allow your phone to ring in class. Do not leave class to answer silent phone calls. Do not text in class. Do not read text messages in class. If you violate this policy, I will ask you to power your device off and leave it on the front podium for the rest of the class. If you don’t wish to do this, you can take your device and leave class for the day, and I will record an unexcused absence for that day. (If your particular circumstances require that you monitor phone calls or text messages on some day, talk to me about your situation BEFORE class that day and I will grant permissions on a case-by-case basis.)

*Attendance Policy:*

For 3000-level classes and above, attendance alone should not result in a failing grade but may be

linked to grading factors such as class participation or in-class work. Accordingly, attendance is required and expected in this class. To be excused, an absence must be documented or cleared with me beforehand. If you come in after I have taken attendance, remind me to mark you as present after class or you will likely be counted absent.

*Make-up and Late Work Policy*:

You may NOT make up missed in-class group exercises, but 1) if you have a documented, university-approved excuse for your absence, I will give you an alternative assignment, and 2) I will drop everyone’s two lowest in-class group exercise scores (NOT exam scores) at the end of the term.

Take-home essay exams may be turned in late. But without a documented, approved excuse, they will be penalized, with the size of the penalty determined by the degree of lateness. Typically, I count off 3% for each full day that an assignment is late. This can add up quickly, so beware of turning in essay exams late.

I do not accept extra credit assignments late under any circumstances for any reason. It is due on or before 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25.

*Inclement Weather Policy*:

Information on campus closure can be found on the ASU web page, on KASU, and on other local radio and television stations. If inclement weather prevents you from being able to come to class and campus is not closed, please email me at [ecave@astate.edu](mailto:ecave@astate.edu). In cases where the campus is closed, please check the course’s *Blackboard* page for possible course assignments.

*Title IX and Child Maltreatment Reporting*:

As an Arkansas State University faculty member, it is my responsibility and my privilege to contribute to the creation of a safe learning environment for all ASU students. Because of my position as a member of the A-State faculty, I am also a mandatory reporter for purposes of Title IX and the Arkansas Child Maltreatment Act. I want you to be able to share information related to your life experiences with me or in class during this course. However, I also want you to understand that: (1) under the ASU System Child Maltreatment Reporting Policy, I must immediately report known or suspected child maltreatment by contacting both the Child Abuse Hotline and the University Policy Department; and (2) under the A-State Title IX Grievance Procedure, I must report to the A-State Title IX Coordinator incidences of sexual discrimination that I observe or that are reported to me. For purposes of Title IX, sexual discrimination includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence occurring within the Title IX jurisdiction. Reports of sexual assault, sexual violence, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence will also be reported to law enforcement authorities. You may also report instances of sexual discrimination directly by contacting the A-State at Title IX office or title9@astate.edu.

*Educational Equity Statement*:

A-State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, national origin, religion, marital status, veteran status, genetic information or disability in any of its practices, policies or procedures are not tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, employment, admissions, educational services, programs or activities which it operates or financial aid. It is the responsibility of all departments and all personnel, supervisory and non-supervisory, to see that this policy is implemented throughout the university.

When applicable, students are encouraged to follow the Student Rights Grievance Procedure outlined in the Student Handbook. Reports can also be submitted to institutionalequity@astate.edu. Incidents involving claims of disability-based discrimination should be reported to Access and Accommodations Services using their Grievance Process Form.

Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Office of Title IX and Institutional Equity, 870-680-4161 and the Administration Building, Room 104.

7. NOTICE CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF EMERGENCY-INTERRUPTED INSTRUCTION:

While it is the goal of Arkansas State University to offer face-to-face classes for its on-campus programs, the university recognizes that in the event of emergency it may become necessary to shift courses into hybrid or online delivery modes. The recent experience of the COVID-19 pandemic made this necessary; however, the same need to shift could be the product of other natural or civil disasters, and could be for short or extended periods of time. To prepare, this means nearly every course offered will have a component where high-speed, reliable internet access is essential to course success. Other technology such as web cameras or specific software may be required by instructors to facilitate remote instruction (please consult the A-State Internet and Technical Services website for more details). Students are strongly encouraged to secure broadband access they can use for the semester either on or off campus. In the event of the need to change the mode of instruction, A-State will endeavor to keep as many on-campus facilities and support areas open as possible dependent on the circumstances of the emergency.

**Please remember, all official notifications are made through your official A-State email account, the university website, and *Blackboard Learn*. You are responsible for checking your university email to ensure you receive the latest updates regarding this course.**

8. COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

January 10, 12: course introduction, introduction to transplant organ acquisition, read pp. 629-56  
January 17, 19: continue with transplant organ acquisition, read pp. 941-46, also pp. 935-37, online reading TBA  
January 24, 26: continue with transplant organ acquisition, read pp. 663-66, also pp. 666-68  
January 31, February 2: continue with transplant organ acquisition, online reading TBA  
February 7: finish transplant organ acquisition, online reading TBA  
February 9: TAKE-HOME EXAM 1 due 5 p.m. (electronic submission)  
February 14, 16: begin medicine in a pluralistic society, read pp. 735-785

February 21, 23: continue with medicine in a pluralistic society, read pp. 785-92, also pp. 792-95

February 28, March 2: continue with medicine in a pluralistic society, read pp. 824-30, also pp. 830-35, online reading TBA

March 7, 9: continue with medicine in a pluralistic society, read pp. 818-24, online reading TBA

March 14: finish with medicine in a pluralistic society, online reading TBA

March 16: TAKE-HOME EXAM 2 due 5 p.m. (electronic submission)

March 21, 23: SPRING BREAK!

March 28, 30: introduction to end-of-life issues, read pp. 563-94, also Quinlan case, Cruzan case, also pp. 602-04

April 4, 6: continue with end-of-life issues, read pp. 594-98, pp. 598-601

April 11, 13: continue with end-of-life issues, read pp. 604-12

April 18, 20: continue with end-of-life issues, read pp. 534-38, pp. 547-59

April 25: finish with end-of-life issues, online reading TBA; ALL COURSE WORK EXCEPT FINAL DUE BY 5:00 p.m. THIS INCLUDES MAKEUP WORK AND EXTRA CREDIT.

DATE TBA: TAKE-HOME EXAM 3 (a.k.a. final exam) due time TBA (electronic submission)