

## Phil 173: Topics in Bioethics (Provisional)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:50

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### Course description:

This course will focus on questions that arise in the domain of human reproduction. We will begin with an examination of the non-identity problem, which will serve as a departure point for a discussion about harm and procreative duties. Next we will look at how responsibilities to offspring arise, what value genetic relationships have and what implications such questions have for assisted reproduction. We will then look at complex cases including surrogacy, mitochondrial donation, and use of frozen embryos. Lastly, we will examine the right to reproduce. There is one lecture spot left open for a topic of the class' choosing.

### Readings (All available on the course website)

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 0	N/A	Sep 28 Intro – no readings
Week 1	Oct 3  "The Non-identity problem" Excerpt from <i>Reasons and Persons</i> (Read sections 120-125 on p.355-371)	Oct 5  Magnusson, Erik. "Children's rights and the non-identity problem." <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> 49.5 (2019): 580-605.
Week 2	Oct 10  Noggle, Robert. "Impossible obligations and the non-identity problem." <i>Philosophical Studies</i> 176.9 (2019): 2371-2390.	Oct 12  Shiffrin, Seana Valentine. "Wrongful life, procreative responsibility, and the significance of harm." <i>Legal Theory</i> 5.2 (1999): 117-148.

Week 3	Oct 17  Weinberg, Rivka. "The moral complexity of sperm donation." <i>Bioethics</i> 22.3 (2008): 166-178.	Oct 19  Brake, Elizabeth. "Fatherhood and child support: Do men have a right to choose?." <i>Journal of Applied Philosophy</i> 22.1 (2005): 55-73.
Week 4	Oct 24  <b>Midterm I</b>	Oct 26  Velleman, J. David. "The gift of life." <i>Philosophy &amp; Public Affairs</i> 36.3 (2008): 245-266. Haslanger, Sally. "Family, ancestry and self: what is the moral significance of biological ties?." <i>Adoption &amp; Culture</i> 2 (2009): 91-122.
Week 5	Oct 31  Melo-Martín, Inmaculada De. "The ethics of anonymous gamete donation: is there a right to know one's genetic origins?." <i>Hastings Center Report</i> 44.2 (2014): 28-35.  Ravitsky, Vardit. "Autonomous choice and the right to know one's genetic origins." <i>Hastings Center Report</i> 44.2 (2014): 36-37.	Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>  Kornegay, R. Jo. "Is Commercial Surrogacy Baby-selling?." <i>Journal of applied philosophy</i> 7.1 (1990): 45-50.  Anderson, Elizabeth S. "Is women's labour a commodity?." <i>Philosophy &amp; public affairs</i> (1990): 71-92.
Week 6	Nov 7  Steinbock, Bonnie. "Surrogate motherhood as prenatal adoption." <i>Law, Medicine and Health Care</i> 16.1-2 (1988): 44-50.  Gheaus, Anca. "Biological parenthood: gestational, not genetic." <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> 96.2 (2018): 225-240	Nov 9  Wrigley, Anthony, Stephen Wilkinson, and John B. Appleby. "Mitochondrial replacement: ethics and identity." <i>Bioethics</i> 29.9 (2015): 631-638.  Lewens, Tim. "The fragility of origin essentialism: Where mitochondrial 'replacement' meets the non-identity problem." <i>Bioethics</i> 35.7 (2021): 615-622.
Week 7	Nov 14  Brandt, Reuven. "Mitochondrial donation and 'the right to know'." <i>Journal of medical ethics</i> 42.10 (2016): 678-684.  Appleby, John B. "Should mitochondrial donation be anonymous?." <i>The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy: A Forum for Bioethics and</i>	Nov 16  Catchup / review

	Philosophy of Medicine. Vol. 43. No. 2. US: Oxford University Press, 2018.	
Week 8	Nov 21 <b>Midterm II</b>	Nov 23 NO CLASS
Week 9	Nov 28 Hard cases (TBD)	Nov 30 Overall, C. (2014-07-03). What is the Value of Procreation?. In Family-Making: Contemporary Ethical Challenges. : Oxford University Press.  Quigley, Muireann. "A right to reproduce?." <i>Bioethics</i> 24.8 (2010): 403-411.
Week 10	Dec 5 Open Topic (VOTE!)	Dec 7 Review

### Assessment:

Midterm I: 30%

Midterm II: 35%

Final Exam: 35% (Take-home – **due Dec 14 11:59 PM**)

\*I will weight the final exam more and the earlier assignments less if doing so is to the advantage of the student

Letter Grade	From	To
A+	97	100
A	93	96.99999
A-	90	92.99999
B+	87	89.99999
B	83	86.99999
B-	80	82.99999
C+	77	79.99999
C	73	76.99999
C-	70	72.99999
D	55	69.99999
F	0	54.99999

## General Policies:

- Readings are subject to minor adjustments.
- I reserve the right to limit and/or prohibit the use of laptops, mobile phones, and other electronic devices at any point during the term if I judge that such devices are impeding concentration.
- If you require any form of accommodation on the grounds of disability please make sure you have registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities and have followed their guidelines for alerting instructors to your particular needs. The university's policy on the accommodation of disability can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/3>  
Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.  
858.534.4382 (phone) | [osd@ucsd.edu](mailto:osd@ucsd.edu) (email) | <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (website)
- If you require any accommodation on religious grounds, please alert me in writing as soon as possible. The university's policy on religious accommodation can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/operating-procedures/educational-policies/courses/epc-policies-on-courses/policy-exams-including-midterms-final-exams-and-religious-accommodations-for-exams/>
- All instances of academic offences including plagiarism, cheating on exams, and multiple submission of work, will be handled in accordance with official UCSD policy, which can be found here: <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/excel-integrity/index.html>. Please read the policy and ensure that you understand it.

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