



PHI 2635 - 51809
Biomedical Ethics

Dena Hurst Ph.D.

Course Syllabus
Summer - 2024

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, **the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term.** The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course. Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College.

All online courses at GCSC utilize the **Canvas Learning System**. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

**Your
Instructor**

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Social Sciences Contacts

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Office Hours

My office hours are from 12:00-2:00 pm Monday through Thursday. But since this is an online course, office hours are flexible.

If you need to reach me, send me a note through Canvas and respond within 24 hours usually, 48 hours on a weekend.

You can also call or text me if you need a quicker response.

Technology Requirements

This section of PHI 2635 is an online class.

You should have regular and open access to a computer and should maintain reliable internet service.

If possible, you are encouraged to have a back-up plan in case of device failure or power outages.

Technical Support

Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.

Technicians are available on the Panama City Campus from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.



Now...about the course!

PHI 2635 Ethics Course Description: Prerequisite: ENC1101 with a minimum grade of "C." (Meets Philosophy/Religion Humanities requirement.) A study of the controversial ethical issues that arise within the practice of medicine and within biomedical research. Case studies and thought experiments will be used to explore the moral and professional responsibilities of those working in the medical profession. Topics include, but are not limited to, patient relationship, abortion, infertility, genetics, cloning, euthanasia, organ transplant, health care reform, and other relevant ethical issues unique to the biomedical field. This course is a Gordon Rule writing course in which students will produce extensive college-level writing and which requires completion with a minimum grade of "C."

Credit hours: 3

Lecture hours: 3

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Theory:** students will gain a comprehension of various ethical theories and how to apply them to issues in biomedical ethics.
 - **Critical Thinking:** students will evaluate the validity of their own and others' ideas through questioning and analyzing issues in biomedical ethics.
 - **Cultural Literacy:** students will gain an appreciation of human culture and its diversity through the evaluation and analysis of contemporary biomedical ethical problems.
- Social Skills:** students will develop and use social skills by engaging in interpersonal deliberation.

Course Requirements. As a student in this course, you are required to:

- Listen to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures and other resources assigned with each weekly Learning Module;
- Read all of the articles/resources assigned with each Learning Module;
- Contribute to the Discussion Board at least once per week;
- Complete all assignments AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below).
- Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot help you if I don't know what you are struggling with.

Required Textbook:

Vaughn, Lewis. *Bioethics: Principles, Issues and Cases*. 4th edition. 2019: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0190903260 | ISBN-13: 9780190903268

Student Expectation Statement:

You are expected to participate in the course via e-mail exchanges with the instructor, by listening to and taking thorough notes on all digital lectures and other required resources, by reading the assigned readings, by submitting the critical thinking essay, by contributing to the discussion board, by submitting as due additional written assignments, and by completing all exams as scheduled.

Method of Evaluation:

Discussion 20%
Critical Thinking Assignments 30%
Essay 20%
Quiz 1 10%
Quiz 2 10%
Final Exam 10%

Assignment of Grades: All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below

Assignment Details and Assessment

I. Discussion Forum (20%):

Discussion forum assignments are scheduled throughout the course. In the weeks in which a discussion forum is assigned, your first discussion forum response is due Wednesday by 11:59 pm; remaining posts can take place at your own pace provided they are posted by Sunday 11:59 pm. Note that amended work weeks may change the due dates; the course calendar is kept current.

Points are awarded based on the number and quality of posts. All posts should add substantively to our discussion and generate further discussion and additional in-depth analysis. All posts must be at least 150 words in length and include supporting citations referencing the digital lectures, readings or other assigned resources.

II. Critical Thinking Activities/Assignments (30%):

Each week you are required to watch the week's recorded lecture, read/view the other assigned resources, and submit assignments designed to reinforce the week's learnings and check comprehension. These activities will vary from week to week and may include short writing assignments, worksheets, and research assignments.

III. Critical Thinking Essay (20%):

One 1,500-word critical thinking and reflection essay is required. The essay format and content instructions are posted in Canvas, both in the Welcome module and in the weekly module in which the essay is due.

When the essay is submitted to the dropbox, it will automatically undergo a **TurnItIn review for plagiarism**, intentional or unintentional. Your essay is not considered submitted until you have verified your TurnItIn score is 20% or less. Scores that are too high put you at risk for violating the Academic Integrity policy.

IV. Quizzes and Exams (30%):

Three quizzes/exams, including the final exam, will be given during the semester. The quizzes are multiple choice, true/false and short answer. The semester will end with a comprehensive final exam that is multiple choice/true false. All quizzes and the final exam will be given through Canvas. There is no need to come to campus for testing unless you choose to.

Instructor Policies

Attendance Policy: Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities each week is required. It is required that you are present and active each week in the course and complete assignments by their scheduled due dates.

Make-Up Work Policy: **Late work should be the exception and not the norm.** Missing any of the scheduled work may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (e.g., an illness, employment change, etc.) that may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course.

Late work will be accepted up to the point where a 0 grade would be earned or until the late work deadline at the end of the term (posted in the schedule), whichever comes first. A late penalty of 10% per week late will be assessed regardless of the reason for the late work. Exceptions to the late penalty may be made in extraordinary circumstances (such as hospitalization). Computer/technology problems do not constitute extraordinary circumstances because access to proper technology is required for this online class.

Social Sciences Policies

Academic Integrity Policy - Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. Social Science professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work.

"Plagiarism" includes, but it not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. "Self-plagiarism" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Student Accessibility Statement - Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Email & Voicemail Response Time - Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. This policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number.

Attendance - Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as "Absent." Attendance in an online/hybrid class is defined as active participation in online academic assignments.

Withdrawals - Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete and submit a withdrawal form to the Office of Enrollment Services prior to the scheduled withdrawal date. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their individual courses under any circumstances. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals - Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Recording Lectures - In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf>

Incomplete Grades - Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can be assigned only to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, the Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- To receive an Incomplete, students must have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F” in Lighthouse.

Social Sciences COVID-19 Policies

The health and safety of students and faculty are a priority. While on campus and in classrooms, wearing cloth masks or disposable facial coverings is highly recommended and in accordance with current CDC guidelines. Students and faculty must also practice social distancing when possible.

If you are sick with COVID symptoms, please stay home to protect others. Notify your professor of your condition by phone or email. If you test positive for the COVID virus, please inform your instructor(s) to make arrangements for course requirements and Damian South, Campus Safety & Security, at 873-3582. You will receive additional instructions at that time. Confidentiality will be maintained.

This information is subject to change. For the most recent information, please refer to the Gulf Coast State College website regarding COVID-19: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/covid-19-coronavirus.html>