Applied Ethics (PHIL10017)

Dr Margaret O’Brien (Margaret.Obrien@ed.ac.uk)
Course Secretary: Ann-Marie Cowe (philinfo@ed.ac.uk).

Course Description: This course will consider the application of ethical theory to cases, imagined and real. This year, special emphasis will be given to the issue of humanity and its relations to rights, needs and genetic enhancement. The first part of the course will begin with topics that have received considerable philosophical debate, such as abortion and euthanasia. From these we will move toward contemporary issues, e.g. future challenges arising from the application of technology to medical science. Overall we will be concerned to understand the role that applied ethics can play in meeting these challenges. Similarly we will be seeking to understand the limits of applied ethics and philosophy, more generally, in these arenas, especially in contrast to the considerations that may apply in making social policies.

Classes: This class runs with one lecture per week, plus one discussion section. You can see what discussion section you have been assigned to through your myEd channel. If you have problems please contact the course secretary, Ann-Marie Cowe (philinfo@ed.ac.uk).

Lecture Time: Monday 10:00 am – 10:50 am Appleton Tower 2.12

Assessment: This course will be assessed by one 1500-word essay (40%) due roughly halfway through the semester, and one 2500-word essay (60%) due near the end of the semester.

Schedule of Classes and Readings
There is no required textbook, however, many of the articles can be found in Bioethics: An Anthology Third Edition, eds Helga Kuhse, Udo Schüklenk, and Peter Singer, (Blackwell 2015) which is available electronically through DiscoverEd. Readings to be found in Bioethics are indicated as such on the reading list.
It is essential that you do the primary reading in advance of the discussion sections.
*The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy is an excellent online source.

Week 1
Introduction
Introduction (Bioethics)
**Week 2**  
Abortion  
Judith Jarvis Thomson, *A Defense of Abortion* (*Bioethics*)  
Don Marquis, *Why Abortion is Immoral* (*Bioethics*)

**Week 3**  
Conscientious Refusals  

**Week 4**  
Assisted Reproduction  
Derek Parfit, *Rights, Interests, and Possible People* (*Bioethics*)  

**Week 5**  
Genetic Enhancement  
David Resnik, *The Moral Significance of the Therapy/Enhancement Distinction* (*Bioethics*)  
Ainsley Newson + Robert Williamson *Should We Undertake Genetic Research on Intelligence* (*Bioethics*)

**Week 6**  
Life and Death  
Jonathan Glover, *The Sanctity of Life* (*Bioethics*)

**Week 7**  
Euthanasia  
Susan M. Wolf, “Gender, Feminism, and Death: Physician- Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia”  
James Rachels, *Active and Passive Euthanasia* (*Bioethics*)
**Week 8**
Advanced Directives
Ronald Dworkin, *Life Past Reasons (Bioethics)*
Rebecca Dresser, *Dworkin on Dementia: Elegant Theory, Questionable Policy (Bioethics)*

**Week 9**
Resource Allocation
Alvin Moss and Mark Siegler, *Should Alcoholics Compete Equally for Liver Transplantation? (Bioethics)*

**Week 10**
Scientific Research

**Week 11**
Neuroethics
Julian Savulescu and Anders Sandberg *Engineering Love (Bioethics)*