Biomedical Ethics
Dr. Sarit Smila Sened
Spring Semester 2024

Instructor Contact Information: Sarits@tauex.tau.ac.il
Office Hours: available by appointment (email to set up time)
Course Credits: 3 TAU Semester Credits

For course times/days and location, please visit the TAU International web site (Study Abroad Course Offerings and Schedules). Please note that all information below is subject to change and/or adjustment as necessary.

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to examine the ethical dilemmas associated with the medical profession. We will do that by exploring the most influential ethical schools and then by looking at some of the prevalent debates in the biomedical ethics. This theoretical background provides the philosophical tools necessary for our investigation and reflection on those challenging moral issues.

Course Requirements and Expectations
Students are expected to have carefully read the assigned readings prior to the class meeting in which they are to be discussed, and are expected to participate in discussions regarding the materials. An essential part of this course is critical thought and discussion of philosophical issues – that is, doing philosophy, not just reading about it. Note that a crucial part of participation involves respect for other people in the class and for their views.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of the semester students would be familiar with the main debates in biomedical ethics and with the different perspective on these debates. They would acquire the skills to critically understand and analyze the arguments made by both sides and evaluate them.

Evaluation Criteria
Final Take – home Exam (60%), midterm exam (20%), attendance and participation (20%)
Course Schedule

**Week 1:** (4/3-6/3) Introduction to Ethics and Biomedical Ethics
Types of Ethical Theory, pp. 12-21

**Week 2:** (11/3-13/3) Ethical Theories
Types of Ethical Theory, cont’d
Ethical Principles, pp. 21-28

**Week 3:** (18/3-20/3) Doctor-Patient Relationship – Confidentiality and Truth Telling
Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California
Thomasma, “Telling the Truth to Patients”, pp. 149-152
Wu, et. al., “To Tell the Truth”, pp. 153-159

**Week 4:** (27/3-29/3) Doctor-Patient Relationship – Informed Consent
**Must Read:**
Faden and Beauchamp, “The Concept of Informed Consent”

**Additional Reading:**
Canterbury v. Spence, pp. 160-162

**Week 5 (25/3-27/3) Review and Midterm**

**Week 6:** (1/4-3/4) Abortion and Reproduction
**Must Read:**
Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral” (moodle)
Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”

https://spot.colorado.edu/~heathwoo/Phil160,Fall02/thomson.htm

Cohen “Give Me Children or I Shall Die!”


Additional Reading:

Week 7: (8/4-10/4) Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide

Must Read:
Rachels, “Active and Passive Euthanasia”

https://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/DeathandDying_TEXT/Rachels_Active_Passive.htm

Hardwig, “Dying at the Right Time”, (moodle)

Velleman, “Against the Right to Die” (moodle)

Additional Reading:
Cohen and Lynn, “Vulnerable People”, pp. 446-45

Passover Break 17/4-30/4

Week 8: (15/4-1/5) Controversies in Medical Research - Humans

The Nuremberg Code, pp 70-71, Declaration of Helsinki, pp. 72-75

Pence, “The Tuskegee Study”, pp. 46-53

Mastroianni and Kahn, “Swinging on the Pendulum” pp. 86-91

Week 9: (6/5-8/5) Controversies in Medical Research - Animals

Must Read:
Singer, Animal Experimentation (moodle)

Cohen, Carl. The Case for the use of Animals in Biomedical Research

https://spot.colorado.edu/~heathwoo/phil1200,Spr07/cohen.pdf
Week 10: (15/5-20/5) Justice and Health

Must Read:
Buchanan, “The Right to a Decent Minimum of Health Care”, pp. 596-601
Engelhardt, “Rights to Health care”, pp. 602-609

Additional Reading:
Ubel, “The Necessity of Rationing Health Care”, pp. 609-616

Week 11 – (22/5) Review for Final Exam – it will be posted on Moodle and due back by 20:00 (Israel time) on Monday, 27/5/2024

Course Readings
Beauchamp and Walters (eds), Contemporary Issues in Bioethics 7th ed
Additional Readings available on moodle

Instructor Biography
Dr. Sarit Smila Sened received her Ph.D in Philosophy in 2009 from Washington University in St. Louis where she also taught until 2013 when she moved back to Israel. She is teaching since then at the Bob Shapell School of Social Work and at Tau International. She specializes in Ethics and moral education.

TAU International Academic Guidelines
Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook posted here at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

Learning Accommodations
In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the
student’s home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs or accommodations they may have. Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments.

It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

In-Class Exams
TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student’s responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

TAU International Absence Policy
Attendance is mandatory in all of the courses including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor’s note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor’s note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.
Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence.

Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

Grade Appeals
Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook posted here.