

Introduction to Medical Ethics

Phil

Professor Kelly Cunningham

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Synchronous Meetings: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

10:10 am-12:00pm CST

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

In this course we will explore the sub-discipline of bioethics known as “medical ethics,” an area of contemporary importance in philosophy. Medical ethics is a field where philosophical ethics is applied to the practice of medicine. In this course you will become familiar with the basics of several normative ethical theories as well as contemporary ethical dilemmas in the practice of medicine.

This is also a ‘W’ course, which means we will be doing a fair amount of writing. Part of our synchronous meetings each week will be dedicated to writing instruction and cultivating the writerly habits that give us the time and tools to write and re-write.

Required Texts:

1. *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases* (4th Edition) by Lewis Vaughn
2. *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi

Grading Breakdown:

Preparation (20%)	Participation (20%)	Writing Assignments (60%)
10% Weekly Quizzes	10% Book Club Presentation and Participation	15% Short Paper #1
5% Discussion Board Posts	5% Individual Meetings	15% Short Paper #2
5% Journal Entries	5% Peer Review Assignment	5% Annotated Bibliography 25% Final Paper

Grading Scale:

94-100: A	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	65-69: D+	0-59: F
90-93: A-	83-86: B	73-76: C	60-64: D	
	80-83: B-	70-72: C-		

Meetings, Reading Schedule & Due Dates:

- Synchronous meetings will occur during our scheduled meeting times on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Mondays and Fridays are our asynchronous days. You should plan to use this time to watch video lectures and complete readings or homework assignments.
- Readings from the Vaughn textbook should be completed prior to synchronous meetings on Tuesdays.
- Readings from Kalanithi's novel *When Breath Becomes Air* should be completed prior to synchronous meetings on Thursday. If you are presenting that week, you should meet with me no later than 5pm on Wednesday.
- All assignments **with the exception of the final paper draft and peer review** are due Friday at midnight. Paper drafts are due Sunday, August 8th by midnight. Peer Reviews are due Wednesday, August 11th by midnight.

Dates	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 (7/12- 7/18)	Vaughn: Chapters 1 & 2	- Discussion Board Post & Replies - Journal Entry - Quiz #1
Week 2 (7/19- 7/25)	Vaughn: Chapter 3 Kalanithi: pages 3-60?	- Discussion Board Post & Replies - Journal Entry -Short Paper #1 due -Quiz #2
Week 3 (7/26- 8/1)	Vaughn: Chapter 4 Kalanithi: pages 60-116	- Discussion Board Post & Replies - Journal Entry -Short Paper #2 due -Quiz #3

Week 4 (8/2-8/8)	Vaughn: Chapter 5 Kalanithi: pages 117-170?	- Discussion Board Post & Replies - Journal Entry -Annotated Bibliography due -Quiz #4
Week 5 (8/9-8/13)	Vaughn: Chapter 6 Kalanithi: pages 171-226	- Discussion Board Post & Replies - Journal Entry -Paper Draft & Peer Review* (Paper Draft due Sunday, Peer Review due Wednesday at midnight) -Quiz #5 -Final Paper

Assignment Descriptions:

Further details, including rubrics, for all assignments can be found on Brightspace. Any citation style is fine, so long as you do the citations correctly and remain consistent throughout the assignment.

Quizzes:

Each week there will be a short quiz on Brightspace based the readings from the Vaughn textbook and the video lectures. Quizzes will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions.

Discussion Board Posts:

On Brightspace, you are required to post once and reply twice to the discussion board. There is no required length for these posts, but content should be substantive and demonstrate engagement with the text and your classmates' thoughts. Prompts will be provided, but you can feel free to write about anything that interested you from the week.

Journal Entries:

Each of you has been given a private discussion board for your "journal entries." There will be a new prompt each week for these entries, but it is also a space for you to ask me any lingering questions about the readings, class discussions, or assignments.

Individual Meetings:

I ask that you plan to meet with me individually twice during the summer session. Once before your book club presentation day, and once during the last week to discuss your final paper. These meetings can be as long or as short as you like, but are required.

Book Club Presentation:

During Thursday's synchronous class time, we will discuss the novel *When Breath Becomes Air*. Once during the semester, you will be asked to do a short (~ 10 minute) presentation about the section of the novel we're reading that week. You should arrange to meet with me to discuss your presentation by 5pm the Wednesday before it is due. Your presentation can be about anything you like, but you must include 2-3 discussion questions/ prompts.

Short Papers #1 &2:

Short papers should be between 3-5 pages in length. In text citations and a bibliography are required. Prompts for the papers will be made available a week before the papers are due. You must build on parts from paper #1 or paper #2 for your final paper, so choose from the prompts with this in mind.

Annotated Bibliography:

Your annotated bibliography should contain at least four sources you plan on using in your final paper. The textbook and the novel we are reading can be sources if appropriate for your paper, but you also must engage with secondary literature and research on your chosen paper topic.

Peer Review:

During our last week together, we will begin a peer review activity which you will complete after class. Peer reviews will consist of comments and annotations throughout your partner's paper using Perusall and a short paragraph that responds to questions about your peer's paper.

Final Paper:

A full draft of your final paper is due Sunday, August 8th by midnight. The final paper should be between 7-10 pages long and include in-text citations and works cited page. You will receive feedback from me and your peers on your paper drafts by Wednesday, August 11th. Final papers are due by midnight on Friday the 13th (spooooky!)

Accommodations

If you require any accommodations to help you succeed in this class, please let me know as soon as possible and I will do everything I can to help. Please bring appropriate documentation from the EAD where necessary.

Honor Code

Vanderbilt's Honor Code applies to this class it does to all work and life at Vanderbilt. Any plausible case of academic dishonesty will immediately be transferred to the Honor Council. If you are sure about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, or questions about the code, please contact me. If you have not done so already, please read the "Statement of Honor Code" available here: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/the-honor-system.