

FALL 2025

PHIL 3309-900: MEDICAL ETHICS (Hybrid)

Thursdays 12:30-1:45pm | BLH 266

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Merritt Rehn-DeBraal, PhD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an upper-level course in applied ethics that focuses on global and local issues arising in the field of medicine. Over the course of the semester, we will explore a variety of topics ranging from the basics of the doctor-patient relationship to end-of life care, disability, COVID-19, and reproductive healthcare. Students will also develop foundational knowledge in central theoretical approaches to medical ethics. Throughout the course we will use these approaches to formulate philosophical arguments and analyze the values and assumptions behind our own arguments and the arguments of others.

This is a hybrid course that includes required weekly in-person meetings and asynchronous online components.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Define key terms, theories, and principles used in the field of medical ethics.
- Apply ethical theories and philosophical methods to analyze real-world medical issues and case studies.
- Critically and charitably assess differing ethical arguments and perspectives.
- Develop effective philosophical arguments in speaking and in writing.

REQUIRED TEXT

Bioethics and Human Rights: Contemporary Issues at Home and Abroad, 3rd ed. Teays and Renteln. Rowman & Littlefield, 2023. (print or eBook)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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| 1. Reading Quizzes | 25% of final grade |
| 2. Exams (3) | 75% of final grade (25% each) |
| 3. Attendance | |