

PHIL 254, SPRING 2013  
**ETHICAL ISSUES IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE**  
TUES/FRI 2:10-3:25, HW 113  
KATHERINE MENDIS, INSTRUCTOR

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**Office:** HW 1448

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00, or by appointment

**Contact Information:** [kmendis@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:kmendis@gc.cuny.edu)

(Please note that this is a Graduate Center address. I do not use a Hunter College email account.)

**Notice Regarding Use of Blackboard:**

I will regularly post announcements and some supplementary materials on Blackboard. In addition, I require that all of your papers be turned in via Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard on a daily basis, and to ensure that you receive emails sent from Blackboard.

**Required Texts:** to be posted on ERes.

**Course Goal:** Students will develop a general background in moral theory and the skills to apply theory to ethical dilemmas in biology and medicine; and an ability to formulate and critique philosophical arguments.

**Course Grade:**

- **90%:** Three short (approx. 6 pages) papers (each worth 30% of course grade). For more information, see "Specifications for Papers." These papers will be turned in online via SafeAssign.
- **10%:** One brief (approx. 10 minutes) in-class oral presentation and analysis of a case that involves an ethical dilemma. Cases may be chosen from a list provided, or you are welcome to discuss a case you have encountered or researched on your own. For more information, see "Specifications for Case Analysis Presentations."
- **There is no extra credit in this class.**

**Late Assignments:**

If a student turns in an assignment late without (a) documentation, or (b) discussing the situation with me in advance, the assignment will receive one letter grade deduction for each day it is late (e.g., an assignment that would have received a B+ will receive a C+ instead).

**Class Participation:**

**Students who excel in class participation will receive an increase of half a letter grade (e.g., a B becomes a B+) on your final grade.** Excelling in class participation includes consistently:

- Contributing to class discussion frequently with questions and comments that reflect that you have read the assigned texts.
- Maintaining a respectful tone toward your instructor and fellow students while discussing complex and controversial ideas.
- Avoiding rude behaviors like talking on cell phones, texting, listening to music, frequent tardiness, or sleeping in class.

**Accommodations for Students With Disabilities:**

In compliance with the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and appointment visit the Office of AccessABILITY in Room E1214, or call (212) 772-4857 or TTY (212) 650-3230.

**Statement on Academic Integrity:**

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Integrity Procedures.

