PHIL 104, SECTION 1: BIOETHICS
FALL 2014

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND AVAILABILITY
Class Meetings: MW 1:30-2:35, ARC 1011
Instructor: Dr. David Corner
Office Hours: M 3:00-3:30, T 12:15-1:30, W 11:00-11:45
Email: dcorner@csus.edu
Office Phone: 916-278-6970
Message Phone: 916-572-6474
Web: http://www.csus.edu/indiv/c/cornerd
Availability: I normally respond to email within 24 hours. However, on weekends or holidays, please do not expect a response until the next school day.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION
Ethical dilemmas faced by professionals and patients in the field of medicine, e.g., patient self-determination and informed consent, discrimination in health care, euthanasia, abortion, surrogate motherhood, genetic modification, and rights to health care. Emphasis is on the well-reasoned application of general moral principles to practical medical decisions. This course satisfies GE Area D2: Major Social Issues of the Contemporary Era.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
By the end of this course, students should have the ability to:

1. Understand how moral concepts and moral theories apply to complex situations in the area of biology and medicine;
2. Understand the moral issues raised by the present and future capacities of biology and medicine;
3. Grasp the implications and consequences of biological and medical advances on society, its institutions and practices, as well as to understand their implications and consequences for other societies;
4. Develop the ability to apply moral concepts to resolve the issues, and to recognize the relation between morality and social consequences;
5. Improve the capacity to use moral concepts and theories to understand the effects of biological and medical advances on issues within General Education Area D2 (especially Biomedical & Health Issues, Environment, and Technology); GE link: http://www.csus.edu/aca/f/Portfolios/GE/geareaD2.stm
6. Improve the ability to represent and express this reasoning in the writing of clear, concise, persuasive, and effective argumentative and analytical prose;
7. Present the contributions and perspectives of diverse groups.

You will also need a Turning Technologies NXT Response Card. Please register your response card on SacCT by the end of the first week of classes.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS**

Evaluation of your progress toward the satisfaction of the course learning objectives, will be conducted by several means. The following assignments comprise the whole of the requirements for this course. This course is based on a total of 1000 available points. **Each assignment must be completed and submitted for grading. Failure to do so indicates a failure to complete the course and will result in a course grade of F.**

**GRADING SCALE**

I will not be assigning letter grades in this course other than your final course grade. However, point values on your assignments will correspond to the traditional letter grades so that 90% and above represents A work, 80% B, 70% C, and 60% D. This link explains the Philosophy Department’s grading standards: [http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/Grading%20Standards.html](http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/Grading%20Standards.html)

Each of the following assignments will receive a point score. At the end of the course, I will total your points and assign grades as follows:

- 900 will receive at least an A-
- 800 will receive at least a B-
- 700 will receive at least a C-
- 600 will receive at least a D-

I may lower these cutoffs as appropriate given the final distribution of scores, so that students earning less than 900 points, for example, might still receive an A or A-. However, there is no guarantee that any such adjustment will be made.

**IN-CLASS QUIZZES (400 POINTS)**

Students should expect a quiz to be given each day in class. (There may be rare exceptions.) Quiz questions will normally be interspersed with the lecture and responses will be given via clicker. Some questions may cover a reading assignment and some may be review of a previous lecture; others may deal with online instruction. Some questions may be aimed at polling the class regarding their philosophical views; for these, no answer will be scored as incorrect.

It is your responsibility to insure that you have a working clicker- your own- with you in class. There will be no makeups for quizzes missed either as a result of absence or a missing or malfunctioning clicker. In order to accommodate such problems, I will add a bonus equal to 15% of the total possible clicker points. This bonus will not allow your clicker score to exceed the maximum possible number of correct in-class clicks- i.e. it will not work to give you extra credit.

I will convert clicker points to course points by using a conversion factor, which will be 400 / the total possible clicker points. Your course points will then be calculated by multiplying your clicker total by this conversion
factor. For example: Suppose there are 160 possible clicker points. This means each student will receive a 24 point clicker bonus (160 x 0.15). The conversion factor will be 400/160, or 2.5. Suppose Sally earns 150 clicker points (including her 24 point bonus). I multiply Sally’s score of 150 by 2.5, which gives her 375 course points.

It is a requirement of this course that you register your clicker by the end of the first week of classes. You cannot get credit for your in-class quizzes or exams if you do not register your clicker, nor can I report your scores to you. Should any clickers remain unregistered at the end of the semester, I will delete their scores.

Please check your scores weekly to insure that your clicker is functioning properly and your quiz results are being recorded. No adjustment will be made for clicker malfunction beyond the 15% bonus described above.

### MIDTERM (300 POINTS)

The midterm will consist of 20-30 multiple choice questions, and two short essay questions. Responses to the short essays should be one page in length (no more). Candidate short essays will focus on the individual debates we will be discussing in class. Two of these will be chosen at random; each essay will require a one-page response.

All writing for this course will involve the critical appraisal of philosophical argumentation, and will be evaluated for proper handling of philosophical concepts presented in the course as well as for mastery of the course material. For an explanation of what is involved in philosophical writing, see the Philosophy Department’s writing guidelines at [http://www.csus.edu/phil/req/writing.htm](http://www.csus.edu/phil/req/writing.htm).

### FINAL EXAM (300 POINTS)

The final exam will be structured in exactly the same way as the midterm, and will not be cumulative.

### EXTRA CREDIT (UP TO 40 PTS)

Students can earn extra credit by participation in discussion during lecture or office hours. Normally there will be a maximum of 40 points extra credit possible, though I may assign more in cases of exemplary effort and mastery of the course material.

### LATE ASSIGNMENTS

If you are going to miss an exam, please contact me soon as possible. Midterms must be made up within one week unless there are extenuating circumstances. There will be a penalty equal to 20% of the points possible on the exam unless you are able to document serious and compelling reasons for missing the exam. There are no exceptions to the requirement for documentation- not even for funerals. Students who miss the final exam, and who do not schedule a makeup with me or arrange to take an incomplete, will receive a grade of WU.

### INCOMPLETES

Incompletes will be granted only when circumstances beyond a student’s control prevent them from completing the course. Normally there will not be more than a single assignment outstanding; otherwise, withdrawal is the appropriate remedy. Incompletes will not be granted after a student has failed the course for nonattendance. Absent extenuating circumstances, arrangements for an incomplete must be made prior to the end of finals week. In all cases I will have to set up an incomplete contract which you must accept online at least 48 hours
before grades are due. If we are not able to set up an incomplete contract in a timely manner, you will receive a grade of WU.

WITHDRAWAL

You may drop the course at any time during the first two weeks of class on My Sac State. After the second week you may drop only for serious and compelling reasons. After the 4th week of class, withdrawal is approved only for serious and compelling reasons; your withdrawal will not be approved on the basis of your dissatisfaction with your grade. University regulations regarding withdrawal are given on the back of the withdrawal form: http://www.csus.edu/registrar/forms/UpdateRecord/petitiontoadddropwithdraw.pdf

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses which will not be tolerated in this class. Assignments in which plagiarism or other forms of cheating are found will at the least be graded at 0, with a minimum penalty of 150 points. All incidents of cheating and plagiarism will be reported both to the Department Chair and to the Student Conduct Officer in the Office of Student Affairs for possible further administrative sanction. It is your responsibility to know and comply with the University’s Academic Honesty Policy http://www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm.

UNIVERSAL ACCOMMODATION

This course and all material have been designed for universal access. If you have difficulty accessing any of the material, please let me know at your earliest experience of difficulty. Also, this course has been designed to facilitate accommodation for specific disability needs. If you have a documented disability (visible or invisible) and require accommodation for assignments, tests, course material, etc., please let me know the end of the FIRST week of the semester so that arrangements can be made. Failure to notify and consult with me by this date may impede my ability to offer you the necessary accommodation and assistance in a timely fashion. Also be sure to consult with the Services to Students with Disabilities (Lassen Hall) to see what other campus services and accommodation options are available for you.

TECHNOLOGY COMPONENT

Please note this course uses SacCT. It is your responsibility to ensure you have regular and reliable access to computing facilities sufficient to the needs of this course. Technical problems must be reported to me at your earliest encounter of the problem. If the problem is more complex than instructor skills allow, you must address your problem to the SacLink Help Line @ 916-278-7337.

LAPTOP POLICY

Laptops, tablets, and smart phones may not be used during lecture. Exceptions will be made only to accommodate disability.