INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND AVAILABILITY

Class Meetings: None
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/acaf/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.
TEXT


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 (more likely) an A-. However, there is no guarantee that any such adjustment will be made.

ONLINE PARTICIPATION (150 POINTS)

Students will receive up to 10 points per week for online discussion, as follows:

Up to 5 points per week for responding to a discussion question on the current material, or responding to someone else’s comment on a discussion question.

Up to 5 points per week for suggesting a multiple choice question on the current material. Give the question, and your suggested answers A-E. Tell us which answer you think is correct and provide a brief (preferably one-sentence) justification for your answer. Ground rules: No “none of the above” answers.” You may include one humorous answer. (In fact, please do.)

Discussion boards for online participation will close at times that will be made clear on SacCT. Though you are very much encouraged to post questions about the structure of the course, these do not qualify for online participation credit.
ONLINE QUIZZES (300 POINTS)

There will be 15 online quizzes, each worth 20 points. Online quizzes will become available on a weekly basis. All of these will be available for at least one week, except for those that open during or after the last week of lecture. Beginning with the third week of class, once discussion of the Arp text has commenced, there will be a quiz on each of the assigned parts (Part 1, part 2 etc) of that text.

Quizzes will generally consist of 5-10 questions, and your total for each quiz will be expressed in course points by calculating the percentage you scored on the quiz, out of the total number of quiz points possible, and multiplying that by 20. So for example, if you score 6 out of 8 possible points (75%), you will receive 15 points toward your course total (75% of 20).

You may have two attempts at each quiz. If you are not satisfied with the score on your first attempt, I suggest that you review the material and try again. The questions may be different on your second attempt. You will keep your last score, even if it is lower than your first.

Each quiz will have a closing date and time that will be readily apparent on SacCT. You are advised to finish each quiz well before its closing time, and to check to make sure you are getting proper credit before the quiz closes. I will not reopen quizzes unless there is a documented failure on the part of the University server within the last 24 hours of the quiz closing time. Virtually all of the problems students encounter with SacCT are problems with their browser or their computer. Leave enough time for each assignment so that, if you encounter problems, you can try again with another computer, another browser, or seek help from me or the Help Desk.

DISCUSSION SUMMARIES (200 POINTS)

You will be asked to turn in four discussion summaries, at 50 points each. Each of these should be 1-2 pages long (double spaced), and each will be based on one of the units in the Arp text. Note that each of these units focuses on a particular moral problem, and presents two opposing views, together with rebuttals. You will be expected to briefly summarize the main points on each side, take a position (i.e. decide who is right and who is wrong), and justify your taking of that position. I will provide you with a worksheet to help you structure your response.

At least two of your summaries must be submitted by the end of the ninth week of classes.

POSITION PAPER (350 POINTS)

You must complete a position paper, 5-7 pages in length, on one of the units from the Arp text that we discuss in this course. I strongly recommend that you base your position paper on one of your summaries, after considering my comments, but this is not required. You may turn in your position paper anytime up until the end of finals week, though please understand that the later you wait before turning in your paper, the more difficult it will be for me to make extensive comments on it. I suggest that you try to turn in your paper no later than the end of the 14th week of classes.

Please review the Philosophy Department’s writing guidelines at http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/WritingGuidelines.html
All written work for this course—discussion summaries and your position paper—must be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**TURNITIN STATEMENT:** Consistent with Sacramento State’s efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, instructors may use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student’s work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student’s work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a ‘similarity score’. The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student’s work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool.

Students should submit papers to Turnitin assignments without identifying information included in the paper (e.g. name or student number), the system will automatically show this info to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin.

Student submissions will be retained in the global Turnitin repository.

**EXTRA CREDIT (UP TO 40 PTS)**

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

**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](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](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.