Syllabus, Philosophy 104: Bioethics, CSU-Sacramento, Fall 2020 (sections 1, 2, and 60, catalog #s 80790, 86998, and TBD; fully online*).

Instructor: Russell DiSilvestro. Best contact option: Canvas “Conversations”—expect a quick response within 24 hours or by the next business day. Expect grading/feedback within 3 business days. Virtual and in-person office hours Monday to Thursday 12 to 1pm. Other contact options: email (rdisilv@csus.edu), phone (916.278.6766) or office appointment (3000 Mendocino Hall).

Catalog 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.”

Text: Caplan and Arp, Contemporary Debates in Bioethics, Wiley (2014). Free eboook online at http://library.csus.edu

Technology Requirements: Students must be able to access Canvas on a stable internet connection.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the course, each student will be able to...

✓ Meet the learning objectives associated with all GE area D (Individual and Society) courses at CSUS:
   1. Describe and evaluate ethical and social values in their historical and cultural contexts.
   2. Explain and critically examine social dynamics and issues in their historical and cultural contexts.
   3. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of human diversity in human society (for example, race, class, age, gender).
   4. Explain and apply the principles and methods of academic disciplines (for example, philosophy) to the study of social and individual behavior.

✓ Meet the learning objectives associated with developing competence in philosophical language and literature on ethical dilemmas in biology and medicine:
   5. Identify moral and social consequences of advances in biology and medicine on the practices and institutions of our and other societies.
   6. Critically examine how thoughtful and diverse experts and peers apply moral concepts and theories to moral issues raised by advances in biology and medicine.
   7. Represent and express philosophical reasoning about advances in biology and medicine by writing clear and concise analytical and argumentative prose.

* Please note: Students who do not participate in the online discussions and take the quizzes during the first two weeks of the semester will be considered to have abandoned the course and may be administratively dropped by the instructor. Re-enrolment will not be permitted.
Accessibility: Let me know me before 9/7/2020 if you have a disability requiring accommodation (documentation to Students for Services with Disabilities, Lasson Hall 1008, 916-278-6955, if you must miss something for some reason.

Academic Honesty: Know the policy: http://www.csus.edu/umanual/student/STU-0100.htm. We also use http://turnitin.com.

Policy Regarding Exceptions: Late work will only be accepted, and missed assignments or assessments will only be excused, if there is a documented serious excuse (for example, a system-wide Canvas crash).

Grading: Your final grade is determined by how many points you earn out of 1000, with these grade floors: 930=A, 900=A-, 870=B+, 830=B, 800=B-, 770=C+, 730=C, 700=C-, 670=D+, 630=D, 600=D-. Your total points are calculated as follows (but a small amount of extra credit may be earned for additional activities announced in advance), using the “Definition of Grade Symbols” at the University's Academic Policies page (http://catalog.csus.edu/academic-policies/#text).

✓ Quizzes (30 points per module x 15 modules = 450 points): For each module, after reading the texts and watching the online videos, take a timed (60 minute) online quiz before 11:59pm each Saturday (30 points). The questions come directly from that module’s readings and videos. Unless announced otherwise, each quiz can only be taken once.

✓ Discussions (30 points per module x 15 modules = 450 points): For each module, use the discussions to make your own long reply to the target question by 11:59pm each Wednesday (10 points), your own medium replies to three long replies of other students in your small group by 11:59pm each Saturday (15 points), and your own short replies to the remaining long replies of other students in your small group by 11:59pm each Saturday (5 points). See details in the ‘Discussions’ PDF and each module.

You should do at least one of the following two options, but if you do both, then only the higher scoring option will count towards your final grade:

✓ Final Exam Option (100 points): The online final exam window will open at 12:01am Sunday December 13 and close at 11:59pm on Saturday December 19. The final exam will be scored (100 points), timed (120 minutes), and cumulative (made of questions drawn from quiz question pools and a pool of questions proposed by students). The final exam can only be taken once.

✓ Final Paper Option (100 points): You can expand one of your long replies into a full philosophical analysis by 11:59pm on Saturday December 19. See details in the ‘Philosophical Analysis’ PDF. We will use http://turnitin.com for this paper.