

Instructor: Kevin Patton
Course: PHIL 2300 / MEDH 2300
Day: Tues / Thurs
Time: 1430 - 1545 / 1600 - 1715
Location: ASH 290

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UNO Philosophy
Office: ASH 205F
Office Hours: Tues / Thurs 1300 -
1400

Human Values in Medicine

I am dying from the treatment of too many physicians.

-Alexander the Great

Course Overview

Human Values in Medicine examines questions of value and meaning that arise in medical contexts. This course provides an opportunity for philosophy majors, medical humanities majors/minors, and students preparing for health professions to confront ethical and social issues in medicine and biomedical research.

Required Materials

All required materials will be available on my [website](#).

Course Information

Preparation: This course may be very challenging for you if you are not accustomed to reasoning in a rigorous fashion. If this is true of you, then you will only do well in this class if you dedicate much of your outside-of-class-time to practicing and mastering the relevant topics covered. Also, the only dumb questions are the ones you don't ask. If you are confused about something, then there is a high likelihood that someone else is too!

Attendance: Attendance is required. There are no make-ups for exams unless your absence is due to a **documented** illness or an emergency.

Website: All course material, including the textbook, will be available exclusively on my website. I do **not** use other services. The site URL is: kevinjpatton.com

Evaluation

Grading Scale

A+	96.7 - 100%	C+	76.7 - 79.9%
A	93.3 - 96.6%	C	73.3 - 76.6%
A-	90 - 93.2%	C-	70 - 73.2%
B+	86.7 - 89.9	D+	66.7 - 69.9
B	83.3 - 86.6%	D	63.3 - 66.6%
B-	80 - 83.2%	D-	60 - 63.2%

F
Below 60%

Exam 1: 25%

Exam 2: 25%

Reading Quizzes: 10%

Final Paper: 40%

Exams: The use of books and notes **will not** be permitted. However, certain kinds of information will be provided on an exam should you need it, and you will be told ahead of time what you are and what you are not required to memorize. Exams may not be rescheduled unless you have documentation of a serious illness or an emergency. A make-up exam is not guaranteed to be at the same level of difficulty as the original exam.

Reading Quizzes: Weekly reading quizzes will be given (typically on the second class of the week, but not always). Such quizzes are meant to reinforce the content of the reading, and the lectures over the readings. There will no makeups allowed for a missed quiz unless you have documentation of a serious illness or an emergency. The format of these quizzes is multiple choice and they will show up again on the corresponding exams. We will go over the correct answers in class, but you will not get the graded quizzes back.

Final Paper: A final paper will be due by the end of the semester. In general, such papers require you to properly explain a position / argument, followed by a sustained critique of the

position / argument. There will be a rubric, followed by guidelines for the paper as we get closer to the end of the semester. In addition to the paper, there will be a short but corresponding presentation that you will give the class at the end of the semester.

Policies

- **Academic Integrity:** The penalty for academic dishonesty (e.g., collaborating on problem sets, cheating on exams) will be failure of the course and the case's being forwarded to Student Judicial Affairs for possible disciplinary action. Make yourself familiar with UNO's Student Code of Conduct, available [online](#). **In this course, the normal penalty for any violation of the code is an "F" for the semester.** Violations may have additional consequences including expulsion from the university. Don't plagiarize – it just isn't worth it.

- **University Policies:** I respect and uphold university policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired students; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are advised to become familiar with the respective university regulations and are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor.

- **ADA:** In compliance with University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

- **Misc.:** Please turn off cell phones, beeping watches, and other gadgets that make noise before entering our classroom. Absolutely no texting is permitted during class. I will subtract up to five points from your participation grade each and every time your phone rings or I see you texting during class.

Further Resources

- **Jargon:** It's important to be on top of the technical terms used by philosophers. Please ask for clarification of terms in class. You can also consult Jim Pryor's online "[Philosophical Terms and Methods](#)." This is less important in this class than in more 'normal' philosophy classes, but it may help.

- **Reference:** The [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) is an excellent online resource, though entries can be lengthy. The [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) has shorter entries, but it is not as scholarly.

- I may post some additional readings on my website if the assigned reading does not explain something with sufficient clarity.

Assignment Calendar

Jan 21	Introduction	April 7	John Harris Paper Pt2
Jan 23	Logical Principles	April 9	Savulescu Paper Pt1
Jan 28	Eth4A - Chap 1	April 14	Savulescu Paper Pt2
Jan 30	Eth4A - Chap 2	April 16	CRISPR Concerns
Feb 4	Eth4A - Chap 3	April 21	Most Research is False
Feb 6	Four Principles	April 23	Most Research is not False
Feb 11	2.2 Case Study	April 28	Four Principles Critiqued
Feb 13	2.3 Case Study	April 30	Four Principles and Islam
Feb 18	2.4 Case Study	May 5	Flex Day
Feb 25	Exam 1 😊	May 7	Flex Day
Feb 27	3.5 w/ Discussion ?s	May 12	No class
Mar 3	3.6 w/ Discussion ?s	May 14	Final Paper Due
Mar 5	3.7 w/ Discussion ?s		
Mar 10	Spring Break!		
Mar 12	Spring Break!		
Mar 17	6.1 - 6.4 w/ Discussion ?s		
Mar 19	6.5 w/ Discussion ?s		
Mar 24	6.6 w/ Discussion ?s		
Mar 26	6.7 w/ Discussion ?s		
Mar 31	Exam 2 😊		
April 2	John Harris Paper Pt1		