

**Washington University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of Philosophy**

**233 Biomedical Ethics**

(COURSE SYLLABUS)

<b><i>Class: 233</i></b>	<b><i>Class hours: 3</i></b>	<b><i>Time: T.TH.</i></b>
<b><i>Section: 11</i></b>	<b><i>Credit hours: 3</i></b>	<b><i>Class room:</i></b>

**Instructor: Mashhad Al-Allaf**

*B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Philosophy: Concentration on Modern Philosophy: Science and Metaphysics.*

**E-Mail: mashhad9@Yahoo.com**

**Office hours: After class and by appointment.**

**Text Book: Classic Cases in Medical Ethics. By Gregory E. Pence.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York, 2000.**

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to present the student with a solid introduction to present moral problems. Emphasis will also be placed on the basic elements of ethical reasoning and argumentation and how these, along with ethical theory, can be used to solve (or attempt to solve) ethical conflicts and dilemmas in our life. To deal seriously with ethical issues we need to see argumentation as more than just mere opinions. In order to facilitate lively and pointed discussion we will cover the basics of ethical theory and logic. To some of you this will be like learning a new language. Don't despair!! Once you learn this language, discussions and arguments will be much more interesting.

**Course Requirements:**

- 1- Class attendance and participation is mandatory: Students should arrive at class having carefully studied the assigned text and prepared to discuss it.
- 2- Complete all reading assignments.
- 3- Take two exams on course material.
- 4- Weekly summary of the assignment, one page.
5. Biweekly reading quizzes.

**Grading Scale:**

Exam # 1:	40%	97-100 =A+	92-96=A	89.5-91=A-
Exam # 2:	40%	86-89 =B+	82-85=B	79.5-81=B-
		76-79=C+	72-75=C	69.5-71=C-
Quizzes and participation	20%	66-69=D+	62-65=D	59.5-61=D-
			59 and below=F	

**Make-up Exams and Late Papers:**

Make-up exams will only be given in cases of a *documented* illness or personal crisis. If you are too ill to take the exam, then you will need to present verifiable documentation from a licensed healthcare professional. The same rule applies to late papers.

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>READING/ACTIVITY</u>	<u>PAGE #</u>
Week 1 T	Introduction to Course and Policies	
TH	The Hippocratic Oath and its Challengers	
Week 2 T	Defining Death: Three Definitions of Brain Death	
TH	Problems in benefiting and avoiding harm	
Week 3 T	The ethics of respect for persons	
TH	Rights and the concept of Autonomy	
Week 4 T	The principle of avoidance of killing	
TH	<b><u>First Exam</u></b>	
Week 5 T	Death and Dying	
TH	The social ethics of medicine	
Week 6 T	Human Control of Life	
TH	Coma and vegetative state	
Week 7 T	Cases to apply	
TH	Cloning	
Week 8 T	Cloning	
TH	<b><u>Second Exam</u></b>	