

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
Introduction to the Ethics of Abortion
Spring 2016

Course: PHIL 192 (M3) ST: An Introduction to the Ethics of Abortion

Course Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:55-10:55AM (2b)

Class Room: Comenius 105

Instructor: Dr. Bernie Cantens

Phone/E-Mail: (610) 861-1589/cantensb@moravian.edu

Web Page: <http://berniecantens.com/>

Office Hours: Thursdays 1-4PM and by appointment.

Text

Required

Handouts

Recommended

The Abortion Controversy: 25 Years after Roe v. Wade, edited by Pojman and Beckwith
Wadsworth Publishing Company, ISBN 0-534-55764-3

The Problem of Abortion, edited by Susan Dwyer and Joel Feinberg. Wadsworth Publishing
Company, 1977. ISBN 0-534-50514-7

Course Description

This course analyzes the moral issue of abortion through an examination of philosophical pro-life and pro-choice arguments.

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this course should be able to do the following:

- 1) To analyze, understand and evaluate moral arguments on the issue of abortion.
- 2) To write clearly on the moral issue of abortion.
- 3) To construct well-formed moral arguments on the issue of abortion
- 4) To show, through written work, an understanding and awareness of the complexity involved in the moral issue of abortion.
- 5) To show, through written work, sensitivity towards the various perspectives, arguments, and counter-arguments on the issue of abortion.

Digital Technology

- **Google Community** will serve as the course's central portals for the course and for the discussion board.
- To be a part of the **Google Community** you need to join the **Introduction to the Ethics of Abortion Google Community**. To join the community you first need to join the **Google+**. To join Google+ log in to your MocoMail (Moravian Gmail), click the grid icon in the upper right hand corner and click on the G+ icon that says "+You." You will then receive an invitation from me.
- **Google Drive** will be used as the vehicle to share documents among students and between the students and professor.
- **Notability** will be used to grade students' assignments. (STUDENTS DO NOT NEED THIS PROGRAM)
- **Blue Jeans** online sessions will be used in special cases if I cannot get to campus. They will be recorded and linked to our Google Community. (STUDENTS DO NOT NEED THIS PROGRAM)

Helpful Websites:

- Google Plus: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hC_M6PzXS9g
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OarvK5w_7gc
- Google Drive: Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0ZvYRU1Y5Y>
Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdtHjhJ_350
There are 4 more parts.
- Google Circles and Communities: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUCu5e_fyeg

BlueJeans

Blue Jeans: Best Practices for Meeting/Class Participants:

How to join a meeting/class:

- **Click on the URL provided to you by the professor/moderator.** Enter the given meeting ID and passcode (if needed).
- You will be joining the meeting straight from your browser—no app to download, just a browser plug-in when you join the meeting. To learn more, [watch this quick tutorial](#).

When joining a meeting/class from your computer or mobile device:

- **Connect via Ethernet cable whenever possible.** Wi-Fi is usually just fine... but if you're having trouble, it's best to be hard-wired.
- **Use earbuds/headset to prevent background noise or background echo.** (Note: not necessary, especially if you are using an Apple MacBook Pro, because the microphone and speakers are very high-quality and well-placed.) The Apple iPod (white) earbuds are quite sufficient—you don't need a fancy headset.
- **If you are connecting from your home network, you'll want to make sure that other people aren't streaming Netflix, YouTube or concurrently uploading backup or running a scheduled virus protection scan.** Anything that would consume network traffic are things to be avoided during a class/meeting.

- **Mute yourself when not speaking.**
- **Consider your visual impression.** Ensure a good camera angle and adequate lighting.

Grading and Assignments

2 Exams (40%)

There will be two essays exams testing students knowledge on the material covered in class and in the readings.

2 Assignments (40%)

The answers to the assigned questions should be a *critical* analysis and in depth examination of the issue in question. A *critical analysis* should include an explanation of the arguments in support of the author's view AND your personal assessment of whether the author's arguments are good (i.e., sound or cogent) or bad, with an explanation in defense of your conclusion.

Final Project (20%)

Students will complete one philosophical writing assignment on a topic *directly* related to the course. The writing assignment is a *top-down, thesis-governed paper* approximately 5-7 pages long, double-spaced and 12-Times New Roman font. A thesis-governed paper is a more formal academic style paper – “the prototypical structure of academic prose. Such writing begins with the presentation of a problem to be addressed; near the end of the introduction, after the writer has presented the problem, the writer states his or her thesis, often accompanied by a purpose statement or a blueprint statement that gives the reader an overview of the whole essay. The body of the paper then supports the thesis with appropriate arguments and evidence” (John C. Bean, *Engaging Ideas*, 87).

Students' papers will be graded according to four criteria: (1) whether the introduction has a clear and explicit thesis and organized developing statements; (2) whether the paper is well organized and demonstrates a logical flow of ideas (in accordance with the introduction of the paper); (3) whether there are well constructed and developed arguments and/or critical explanations of philosophical problems and solutions; and (4) whether the writing skills, such as word use, sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation are correct.

How to turn in your exams and paper in Google Drive?

When you complete an assignment you name it “**ETHICSOFABORTION-Last name-assignment#**” and share it with me through Google drive. You will then have access to your graded paper on Google Drive. You will do the same for the final project (paper). Please name the paper “**ETHICSOF ABORTION-Last name-Paper**”.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

See Student Handbook:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>

Plagiarism

“A major form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism, which we define as the use, whether deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgment; an “outside source” is defined as any work (published or unpublished), composed, written, or created by any person other than the student who submitted the work (adapted from Napolitano vs. Princeton). Instructors often encourage—and in the case of research essays, require—students to include the ideas of others in their writing. In such cases, students must take care to cite the sources of these ideas correctly (in other words, to give credit where credit is due).” (Moravian Academic Dishonesty Policy)

Student Behavior:

See Student Handbook pp. 38 – 40

Disability Statement

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Course Requirements

Reading of the assigned articles and doing the study questions are essential to succeed in this course. The study of philosophy does not only consist of memorization; students must also read analytically and reflect critically on the texts and reading assignments. As an online course, students will not have the opportunity to address the professor directly in class, so students must take the initiative to contact the professor through e-mail or Skype if they have any questions or concerns.

Grading/Measures of Evaluations:

2 Exams	40%
2 Assignments	40%
Final Paper	20%

A=100-94; A- =93-90; B+=89-87; B=86-84; B- = 83-80; C+=79-77; C = 76-70; D=69-60; F=<59

PROGRAM OF STUDY

DATE		TOPIC		READINGS
Week 1		Part 1: Introduction		
1/19 1/21		Ethics		Handout
Week 2				
1/26 1/28		Logic of Argumentation		Handout
Week 3		History, Law, and Politics of Abortion in the U.S.		
2/2 2/4		Exam 1 <i>Row v. Wade</i>		Exam 1
Week 4		Personhood		
2/9 2/11		The Importance of the Personhood Issue		
Week 5		Personhood-Related Arguments		
2/16 2/18		Anti-Abortion Arguments		
Week 6				

2/23		Pro-choice	
2/25		No Class (work on assignment)	
Week 7			
3/1		Pro-Choice Arguments	
3/3		Review	Assignment 1 Due Friday at Midnight
3/5 -3/14		SPRING BREAK	
Week 8		The Personhood Issue as Irresolvable	
3/15 3/17		Essentially Contested Concept Moral Risk	
Week 9			
3/22 3/24		Review Easter Break	
Week 10		Women's Rights	
3/29 3/31		Exam 2 Pro-Choice	Exam 2
Week 11			

4/5 4/7		Pro-Choice		
Week 12				
4/12 4/14		Objections		
Week 13		Ethics of Killing		
				Assignment 2 (Women's Rights) Due 4/17 Sunday at Midnight
4/19 4/21		Why is Killing Wrong? Deprivation Argument		
Week 14				
4/26 4/28		Objections		
Week 15				
Finals Week				Final Paper Due