



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 649 – Topics in Ethics
Lec 02, Topic 03: “Neuroethics”

Winter Term 2011

Course Outline

Lectures: Monday, 5:00-7:30 pm in SS 105

Instructor: Walter Glannon

Office: SS 1226

Phone: 220-3171

Email: wglannon@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday: 1:30-3:30pm

Course Description

Neuroethics is an interdisciplinary field divided into two branches: the ethics of neuroscience; and the neuroscience of ethics. The first branch examines practical ethical issues arising from measuring and intervening in the brain. These issues include informed consent and benefit-risk assessments regarding the use of brain imaging, psychotropic drugs, and neurosurgery. The second branch examines the neural mechanisms that underlie reasoning and decision-making and how these mechanisms bear on questions about free will, moral and legal responsibility, and moral judgment. This course addresses questions in both branches of neuroethics. We will focus on four topics: 1) free will and responsibility; 2) moral reasoning; 3) cognitive enhancement; and 4) disorders of consciousness and the neurological determination of death.

Required Texts

- Course pack in Bookstore
- *Bioethics and the Brain*, Walter Glannon. Oxford University Press, 2008
- *Effective Intentions: The Power of Conscious Will*, Alfred Mele. Oxford University Press, 2009
- *Neuroethics: An Introduction with Readings*, Martha Farah, ed. MIT Press, 2010

Evaluation

2 papers:

The first paper should be 10-12 pages, due in class February 16	25%
The second paper should be 18-20 pages, due in class April 13	50%
Class Presentation, 20 minutes	15%
Participation in class discussion	10%

Grading Method

A+ 98-100	B+ 86-89	C+ 74-77	D+ 62-65
A 94-97	B 82-85	C 70-73	D 58-61
A- 90-93	B- 78-81	C- 66-69	F 0-57

Late Submission of Papers

Papers submitted later than the due date will lose one-half letter grade for each day beyond that date. Students with medical or other extenuating reasons for not submitting a paper on the due date will not be penalized, provided that they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances.

Schedule

January 10: Introduction: Overview of the brain-mind relation and neuroethics (Readings: Roskies, 2002; Glannon, Chapter 2; Farah, 1-10)

January 17: Free will and moral responsibility (Readings: Greene and Cohen, 232-257 in Farah; Roskies, 2006; Mele 2006 and 2009; Glannon, Chapter 3).

January 24: Free will and moral responsibility (Reading: Mele 2009)

January 31: Free will and moral responsibility (Reading: Haggard, 2008)

February 7: Legal responsibility (Readings: Hyman, 259-267 in Farah; Morse, 268-280 in Farah)

February 7: Moral reasoning (Readings: Greene 2001; Greene et al. 2003; Greene et al. 2004; Singer 2005; Berker 2009; Kamm 2009)

February 14: Moral reasoning. **First Paper due February 14**

February 21: Reading Week

February 28: Cognitive Enhancement (Readings: Harris, 2007, 2010; Sandel, 2010; Parens, 2010; Kamm, 2010; Farah et al., 30-41, in Farah; President's Council, 58-72 in Farah)

March 7: Cognitive Enhancement

March 14: Cognitive Enhancement

March 21: Disorders of Consciousness and the Neurological Determination of Death (Readings: Laureys, 302-320 in Farah; Wilkinson et al., 2009; Savulescu and Kahane, 2009; Glannon, Chapt. 6)

March 28: Disorders of Consciousness and the Neurological Determination of Death

April 4: Disorders of Consciousness; Student presentations

April 11: Student presentations.

Second Paper due April 13