

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
College of Medicine – Philippine General Hospital
University of the Philippines Manila

Bioethics 223 – Gender and Ethics
2nd Semester, AY 2023-2024

COURSE GUIDE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Gender and Ethics! This is a 3-unit elective under the Master of Science in Bioethics. This is a semester long class that will introduce you to gender theories and their application to bioethics issues.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, you should be able to achieve the following:

1. Analyze the difference of sex and gender
2. Evaluate with the different gender theories
3. Apply gender theories in issues in bioethics

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. Sex and Gender
 - A. Sex and Gender
 - B. Sex, Gender and Health

- II. Theories
 - A. Overview of Feminist Ethics
 - B. Ethics of Care
 - C. Critiques on the Ethics of Care
 - D. Queer Theory
 - E. Intersectionality

- III. Application to Bioethical Issues
 - A. Research
 - B. Abortion
 - C. Reproductive Screening

MODE OF DELIVERY

This class will be delivered online. Readings will be made available through VLE under the Bioethics 223 course. Online lectures and class discussions will be made through a video conferencing platform (Zoom). In order to access this, you should have a UP Manila email

address. Please contact the Information Management System at ims@post.upm.edu.ph if you do not have an existing UP Manila email address or if you have any issues with logging in.

You may reach the faculty course coordinator via email.

COURSE MATERIALS

Readings for each topic will be uploaded through the learning management system.

Suggested books for additional readings:

Feminism and Bioethics: Beyond Reproduction Edited by Susan M. Wolf
 In a Different Voice by Carol Gilligan

STUDY SCHEDULE

Week Number	Module/ Topic	Learning Resources	Learning Tasks
1	Orientation		
2/3	Sex and Gender	Video (links on Canvas) Readings (uploaded on Canvas)	Read the uploaded materials Reporting on Sex and Gender Class discussion
	Sex, Gender and Health	Lecture	
	Overview of Feminist Ethics	Video (links in Canvas) Readings (uploaded on Canvas) Lecture	Read the uploaded materials Reporting on Feminist ethics Class discussion
5/6	Ethics of Care	Video (links in Canvas) Readings (uploaded on Canvas)	Read the uploaded materials Reporting on the ethics of care and its critiques Class discussion
	Critiques of the Ethics of Care		Submission of Paper 1 (due after Week 5)
7/8	Queer Theory	Readings (uploaded on Canvas) Lecture	Read the uploaded materials Class discussion Reporting on queer theory

	Intersectionality	Video (links on Canvas) Readings (uploaded on Canvas) Lecture	Read the uploaded materials Reporting on intersectionality Class discussion
9/10	Research	Readings (uploaded on Canvas) Other journals/books/articles that the student finds	Read the uploaded materials Class discussion Reporting by students
	Abortion	Readings (uploaded on Canvas) Other journals/books/articles that the student finds	
	Reproductive Screening	Readings (uploaded on Canvas) Other journals/books/articles that the student finds	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirement 1 – Video Lecture/Presentation – 20%

The students are assigned to make a 20-30-minute video lecture on the following topics:

- a. Sex and Gender – difference between sex and gender, gender as a social construct, implications of sex and gender to health and in ethical issues, personal insights/learning
- b. Overview of Feminist ethics – origin of feminist ethics, how it differs from the other prevalent views/approaches, personal insights/learning
- c. Ethics of Care and its critique – brief history of the theory, nature of the theory, implications to ethical issues, advantages/disadvantages/criticisms of the theory, example of how it can be applied to an ethical dilemma, personal insights/learning
- d. Queer theory/queer bioethics – brief history of the theory, nature of the theory, implications to ethical issues, advantages/disadvantages/criticisms of the theory, example of how it can be applied to an ethical dilemma, personal insights/learning
- e. Intersectionality - brief history of the theory, nature of the theory, implications to ethical issues, advantages/disadvantages/criticisms of the theory, implications on its application to an ethical dilemma, personal insights/learning

*Make sure to properly cite your sources

Course Requirement 2 – Paper on Ethics of Care – 20%

The student is required to submit a paper answering the question: “How different or similar is the Ethics of Care form one of the other moral theories that you have learned about?”. The student is asked to identify one moral theory of their choice and compare/contrast it with the Ethics of Care. The paper should be a maximum of 2 pages (excluding references), on 8.5” x 11” paper, Aria font 11 single space.

Course Requirement 3 – Lecture on Application of Theories to a Chosen topic – 15%

The student is assigned a topic for a 15-minute report in class on the application of any of the theories discussed in class to a chosen topic and the students’ personal insights/learning. They may choose a topic (not limited to the list): abortion, research and reproductive screening.

Course Requirement 4 – Final Paper – 35%

The student will choose a topic (not limited to the list) and discuss it from the feminist ethics perspective: contraception, sterilization, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, euthanasia and genetic engineering. The paper should be a maximum of 3 pages (excluding references), on 8.5” x 11” paper, Aria font 11 single space.

Course Requirement 5 – Class Participation – 10%

The student is encouraged to participate in class discussions to enrich learning.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

I am Dr Mary Ann Abacan and I will be handling this course. I am a pediatrician specializing in clinical genetics and inborn errors of metabolism. I chose to study bioethics because my line of work is deeply imbued with complex ethical issues and I wanted to learn how to better approach them. Just like you, I am a learner and I look forward to being educated further by my students. I can be contacted through my email address: mrabcan@up.edu.ph

HOUSE RULES

The discussion of bioethics issues may be contentious, but we are respectful of each other’s opinion and value the inputs of everyone. We use language that is non-offensive and we are open-minded individuals. We value integrity and should not plagiarize. And because the world needs it right now, we are infusing it with kindness.