



HCE 430 HEALTH CARE ETHICS

BIOETHICS AT THE MOVIES

OVERVIEW

This activity contains two parts: ***A small group led discussion and an individual position paper.*** Your paper is due during week 8; The discussions will be scheduled during weeks 5-8.

First, select one of the films below on which to base your paper, and then ***email your instructor your first and second choice by the end of week 1.*** The movies are assigned on a first come, first served basis. If you get your choices in after others do, you may not get the movie you wanted.) When you select your movie, check to see if you can rent it before you email the instructor your choices.

Week 5 - Gattaca (Ethical Issues at the Beginning of Life)

Week 6 - Miss Evers' Boys (Ethical Issues Across the Life Span - Medical Research)

Week 7 - The Sea Inside (Ethical Issues at the End of Life)

Week 8 - Sicko (Ethical Issues in Social Policy and Resource Allocation)

****note:*** All of the films can be found at www.NetFlix.com if you subscribe to the service. Another place to check besides your local video rental store, is your local library.

Depending on the size of the class, no more than 4-5 students can select the same movie. You will be put in groups of 2 or 3 for the student-led discussion. Your instructor will let you know the teams during week 2.

PART 1: SMALL GROUP LED DISCUSSION 50 PTS

Connect with your assigned co-facilitators and brainstorm some discussion questions that come to mind about the ethical issues that you observed in the movie and how they occur in the real world. Your group should ***collaboratively settle on ONE question prompt*** for the class discussion. Your discussion will be for the whole class, so formulate your questions in such a way that doesn't depend on seeing the movie. All facilitators will be leading and facilitating the discussion, and each facilitators efforts are graded individually. Your group is responsible for:

- One handout that summarizes the film, lists the major ethical issues the movie portrayed, and then raises some questions about this type of issue in the real world.
- One collectively agreed upon discussion prompt that stimulates critical thinking.
- During the discussion, use Socratic questioning or play devil's advocate as needed.

One handout and discussion prompt per group should be emailed as an attachment to the instructor by 11:59 pm of the Sunday before your assigned week begins. The instructor will then post the discussion topic and handout for the rest of the class in the discussion forum. Your instructor will let you know which week (between Week 5-8) your group will have your discussion.

Note regarding collaboration support: Your small group will have a private discussion area to communicate and collaborate for this activity. You may use Zoho docs (<http://www.zoho.com>) to collaborate and build your group

handout together. Click the following link to find out more on how to use zoho <http://www.zoho.com/online-document-management/zoho-docs-videos.html>

Scoring Rubric for handout and facilitated discussion:

Clarity and organization of the handout: The handout is well-organized and is easy to follow.	5 points
Content: The handout provides a clear summary of the film and lists the major ethical issues.	10 points
Discussion prompt: A clear prompt that will incite an engaging discussion.	10 points
Facilitation of the threaded discussion: Including active facilitation throughout the entire week; use of good netiquette guidelines; use of unbiased language and reliable evidence; use of the Socratic method in posing follow-up questions; and facilitating a discussion that is fair to both sides of the issue and allows for multiple perspectives.	25 points
TOTAL	50 points

PART 2: INDIVIDUALLY WRITTEN POSITION PAPER (100 PTS)

After viewing the film, start crafting your paper. The paper is to consist of three main sections, and subtitles should be used to demarcate clearly the sections. In the first section, summarize the content of the film and identify the ethical issues raised. This should be done in such a way that a person who did NOT view the film has working knowledge of the plot and the main characters. A comprehensive summary usually can be done in two pages. In the second section, critically analyze the film in relation to the ethical issues it raises. In crafting the critique section, make sure you answer all the below questions within the critique. For instance, the critique should serve as an exposition of the ethical issues along with rooting out bias and determining whether the information presented in the film is factually sound, which requires some additional research. A comprehensive summary usually can be done in three pages. In the third section, formulate your personal position on an ethical issue raised by the movie with a clearly articulated thesis. Alternatively, you can frame your thesis as an ethical question. Then justify your position using well-constructed arguments and counterarguments based on ethical theory and principles, as you have done in the case studies. A comprehensive justification section can usually be done in six pages.

Submit your individually written position paper to the dropbox by the due date specified during week 8.

Scoring Rubric for the paper

Content	Points
Film Summary	10
Discussion and Critique	25
Clearly Articulated Thesis	5
Justification of thesis	20
Construction and refutation of counterarguments	20

Use of a minimum of 6 scholarly sources along with the incorporation of class discussions and class PowerPoint	10
Organization / Style/Grammar / APA format	10
Total	100

Position Paper Checklist:

- Does the summary provide a good overview of the film? Have you identified the plot and the main characters? You should assume the reader of your paper is not familiar with the film.
- Does your critique of the film include most of the following elements?
 - Were you able to identify the specific ethical issues raised along with providing adequate definitions of any key concepts?
 - Was the handling of ethical issues objective and balanced or was there an obvious bias present in the film? Was the bias acknowledged?
 - Was the film was informative, factually sound, and clear in its delivery and logical in its conclusions?
 - Was the film useful in prompting additional thought on the issues?
- Have you presented your personal position on the issue with a clear and concise thesis or ethical question?
- Have you strongly justified your thesis using the relevant ethical theories and principles? Remember there are no right or wrong theses in terms of grading, only well or poorly supported ones. Have you fairly constructed the relevant counterarguments? Have you adequately refuted them?
- Have you used a minimum of 6 scholarly sources (the book may count for only 1 scholarly source)? Have you used the sources to help determine whether the information presented in the film is factually sound?
- Have you avoided common logical fallacies in constructing and refuting arguments?
- Have you carefully proofread the paper for misspelled words, grammatical errors and clarity of presentation? Try reading the paper out loud, go to the writing center, or have a knowledgeable friend read the paper and serve as editor. You always know what you meant, but this type of writing is often hard to evaluate by yourself with respect to how someone else might read it.
- Do the in text citations and bibliography follow accepted APA format?
- Have you avoided plagiarism? Any time you use someone else's words verbatim or even closely paraphrased, you must cite your source. Direct quotes should be set off with quotation marks and the page number **MUST** be included in the citation (author, date, page).
- Is the body of your paper at least 10 pages long, double-spaced with standard margins and a 12 point font?

[Return to Top](#)

All Site Content © Regis University