

PHIL 2600.004: ETHICS IN SCIENCE

INSTRUCTOR

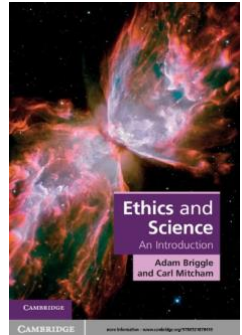
- Bernardo R. Vargas, Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy, MA in Philosophy
- Pronouns: He/His/El
- Office Hours: Via Zoom or in-person appointment
- Email: bernardo.vargas@unt.edu
 - **Due to the high volume of students, I will only respond to emails to communicate with you more efficiently. Please do not message me on Canvas, as I will not see it.**
 - I will respond to emails Monday through Friday before 5 PM. If I don't respond within 24 hours of a workday, feel free to send a friendly reminder.
 - **Please format your message in the following email format:**
 1. Salutation: "Hi Prof. Vargas, ...
 2. Introduction: This is Maria from PHIL 2600-X...
 3. Body: I am reaching out to ask if...
 4. Closing: Thanks! --- Maria"

CLASS SCHEDULE

- Tue-Thurs 11:00AM - 12:20PM - CHEM 253

READING MATERIAL:

- [Required] Briggie, Adam and Mitcham, Carl. *Ethics in Science: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Any readings outside of this text will be made available through Canvas as PDF.
- Note: Although the PDFs will be provided, I highly recommend beginning to grow your library by purchasing the full text of each book for further.



OTHER MATERIAL:

- Scantrons
- Pencils
- Notebook paper (needs to be able to tear loose so you can submit it at times)

COURSE OVERVIEW

Human beings are constructing a new world through science and technology. Just consider the rapid changes in medicine, information, transportation, artificial intelligence, materials, energy, food, etc. In all these cases, we confront questions at the intersection of truth and power, knowledge and justice. The kind of world we create will be decided not simply by the expanding knowledge of science or the increasing powers of technology. It will depend more significantly on our visions about good and bad and right and wrong. In other words, we must think simultaneously of *ethics in science*.

This course aspires to make you more informed and astute in the conversations that shape our lives at the intersection of science and ethics. The class is divided into six modules. We will address various philosophical, scientific, and ethical questions: What is ethics? What is science? What is the relationship between ethics and science? What do scientists *do*, and what do scientists *assume* in their quest for scientific inquiry and knowledge? What makes an inquiry ethical? What are ethical dilemmas in the age of science? And what the social and personal responsibilities of inquirers and practitioners are.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Define and classify basic concepts in ethics (moral philosophy) and science.
- Identify and categorize the most important issues at the intersection of ethics and science.
- Understand, interpret, analyze, and assess those issues.
- Develop improved reading and critical thinking skills as well as open-minded and respectful dialogue skills.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Philosophy is a field of study that requires constant engagement with our peers. Students are expected to participate and voice their understanding of the course readings and their assessments of the arguments. Students are expected to come to class having read the material and prepared to discuss the readings. Students should engage with the material as much as possible.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

Students are expected to show respect to the instructor and their fellow classmates. Although we may not always agree on ethics and philosophy, disagreement should never invite disrespect or hostility.

GRADE ASSESSMENT:

Your performance in the Ethics in Science course will be assessed using various dimensions, each contributing to your final grade as follows:

Attendance & Class Participation	20%
Weekly Evaluation: Quizzes	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Final Presentation	20%

The final grade distribution is as follows:

100 – 90%	A
89 – 80%	B
79 – 70%	C
69 – 60%	D
60% >	F

1. **Attendance & Class Participation:** Attendance will be taken every class session.
 - **Students are allowed three unexcused absences.** After three unexcused absences, students will lose 5% of their attendance grade for every additional absence. UNT policy defines an excused absence as an absence due to a university-sponsored event, passing of a family member, religious holiday, or documented illness. Documentation is required.
 - **Your quiz grade will be your verification of attendance in the class. If you arrive late for the quiz and have an excused absence (professor's discretion), you will be assigned a make-up assignment.**
 - **If you arrive 10 minutes late, you will receive a deduction on your daily participation grade.**

2. **Quiz/Assignment:** Each quiz will be taken at the beginning of class with a time limit of 10 minutes. None of the quizzes/assignments are exhaustive; they are meant to ensure that students keep pace with the course, complete the assigned readings, and pay attention to the lectures. Quizzes are multiple-choice and true/false questions taken directly from the readings and lectures.
 - a. **Important details**
 - i. **Scantrons & Pencils:** All of the quizzes will be graded on Scantrons. Please purchase a pencil and sufficient Scantrons for the 24 quizzes.
 - ii. **Your worst grade will be dropped.**
 - iii. **Your quiz grade will be your verification of attendance in the class. If you arrive late for the quiz and have an excused absence (professor's discretion), you will be assigned a make-up assignment.**

3. **Mid-Term Exam:**
 - a. The exam will also be graded on scantrons.

4. **Final Exam:** The final exam will cover the assigned content, readings, and lectures since the mid-term, and the essay portion will consist of questions regarding your project.

5. **Final Presentation:** Students will select and get approval for an ethical issue related to their field, advocate for it through various methods, and present their work in a 10-minute presentation with a Q&A. They must reference required readings and work in approved groups. Extra credit is available for brief summaries of readings.

LATE WORK

- Each day an assignment is turned in late, there will be a 15-point deduction.

Course Schedule:

This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in-class or on **Canvas. It is your responsibility to obtain the amended schedule provided by instructor.*

(NOTE: The reading assigned for each day is discussed *that day* and should be read before the class meets):

ODA ACCOMMODATIONS:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to unt.edu/success and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

Schedule:**Week 1**

- **Tues, 8/20:** Intro to Course & Syllabus Review
- **Thurs, 8/22:** What is Philosophy?

Week 2

- **Tues, 8/27:** What is Philosophy? According to the Greeks
- **Thurs, 8/29:** What is Philosophy? Mexican American Perspective

Week 3

- **Tues, 9/3:** What is Philosophy? Indigenous Perspectives
- **Thurs, 9/5:** Module 2 (M2): Ethical Frameworks and Scientific Inquiry

Week 4

- **Tues, 9/10:** Ethics & Science
- **Thurs, 9/12:** Ethical Concepts & Theories

Week 5

- **Tues, 9/17:** Ethical Concepts & Theories
- **Thurs, 9/19:** Science And Its Norms

Module 2 (M2): Ethical Frameworks and Scientific Inquiry

Week 6

- **Tues, 9/24:** Research Ethics I: Responsible Conduct
- **Thurs, 9/26:** Research Ethics II: Science Involving Humans

Week 7

- **Tues, 10/1:** Research Ethics III: Science Involving Animals
- **Thurs, 10/3:** Science, Ethics, and Public Policy: From Ethics to Politics And Policy

Week 8

- **Tues, 10/8:** Revisiting Key Ethical Theories
- **Thurs, 10/10:** Midterm Exam

Module 3: Research Ethics

Week 9

- **Tues, 10/15:** Review
- **Thurs, 10/17:** Transition

Module 4: The Role of Science in Society

Week 10

- **Tues, 10/22**
- **Thurs, 10/24**

Week 11

- **Tues, 10/29:** Contemporary Ethical Issues in Science: Science and the Environment
- **Thurs, 10/31:** Environmental Justice

Week 12

- **Tues, 11/5:** Presentations
- **Thurs, 11/7:** Presentations

Week 13

- **Tues, 11/12:** Presentations
- **Thurs, 11/14:** Presentations

Week 14

- **Tues, 11/19:** Presentations
- **Thurs, 11/21:** Presentations

Week 15

- **Tues, 12/3:** Final Exam Review
- **Thurs, 12/5:** Pre-Finals Day

Week 16

- **Tues, 12/10:** Final Exam

Abbreviated Schedule

Week 1

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

- **Quiz 1**

Thursday, August 22, 2024

- **Quiz 2**

Week 2

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

- **Quiz 3**

Thursday, August 29, 2024

- **Quiz 4**

Week 3

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

- **Quiz 5**

Thursday, September 5, 2024

- **Quiz 6**
- **Project: Team Rules Due**

Week 4

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

- **Quiz 7**

Thursday, September 12, 2024

- **Quiz 8**
- **Project: Topic Confirmation Is Due**

Week 5

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

- **Quiz 9**

Thursday, September 19, 2024

- **Quiz 10**
- **Submit “Get Involved” Plan For Approval By 11:59 Pm**

Week 6

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

- **Quiz 11**

Thursday, September 26, 2024

- **Quiz 12**

Week 7

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

- **Quiz 13**

Thursday, October 3, 2024

- **Quiz 14**

Week 8

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

- **Quiz 15**

Thursday, October 10, 2024

- **Midterm Exam**

Week 9

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Week 10

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

- **Quiz 16**

Thursday, October 24, 2024

- **Quiz 17**

Week 11

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

- **Quiz 18**

Thursday, October 31, 2024

- **Quiz 19**

Week 12

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Thursday, November 7, 2024

- **Quiz 20**

Week 13

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

- **Quiz 21**

Thursday, November 14, 2024

- **Quiz 22**

Week 14

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

- **Quiz 23**

Thursday, November 21, 2024

- **Quiz 24**

Nov. 25 – Dec 1: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Week 16

Finals Exams 7-13. Date TBA

