Seminar in Bioethics  Phil 276x (DPI 204)
Fall 2017, Wed 4-6, Emerson 310 (FAS)
Prof. Kamm  frances_kamm@hks.harvard.edu; office hours: Wed 6:15
-7:15 in Emerson 209B and by appointment

This graduate class will focus on philosophical issues related to death,
dying, and killing and their bearing on public policy. Readings are a
combination of books and articles (some unpublished) by philosophers,

Requirements: (1) Readings done before class (including first class), class
attendance and participation; (2) Class presentation, to be graded, on a
reading/topic for the week (about 10 minutes read from a short paper
(about 1,000 wds) to be submitted and circulated to others in the class by
Monday before class by 6 p.m.); (3) Commentary on someone else's
presentation (5 minutes, not submitted); (4) Preparation and submission
before class of at least 2 questions to ask of guest discussants to the class.
I will assume that you have such questions and will feel free to call on
people who do not speak up on their own; (5) 15 page final paper on topic
discussed in class (and approved by Kamm) with focus on class topics and
readings.

Honor Code: You are expected to abide by the University policies on
academic honesty and integrity as given in the Student Handbook.
Violations of these policies will not be tolerated and are subject to
severe sanctions up to and including expulsion from the university.
Students must observe Kennedy School and Harvard University rules
regarding the citation of sources. Any sentences or paragraphs taken
verbatim from the writing of (or interviews with) any other person or
persons, or from your own writing that has been published elsewhere, must
be placed in quotation marks and their source must be clearly identified.
Changing the wording of a sentence or passage slightly does not evade the
requirement for citation. Indeed, whenever you are drawing an important
argument or insight from someone else, even if you reword it into your own
words, a reference to the source is required. Including material from others
in the assignments without appropriate quotation marks and citations is
regarded, as a matter of School and University policy, as a serious violation
of academic and professional standards and can lead to a failing grade in
the course, failure to graduate, and even expulsion from the University.

Classes: SINCE THE FIRST CLASS HAS A GUEST DISCUSSANT (PROF. KAGAN), EACH STUDENT MUST PREPARE 2 QUESTIONS FOR HIM AND SUBMIT THEM BEFORE CLASS BEGINS AT 4 P.M. BECAUSE THE NEXT DAY IS THE FINAL DAY FOR DROP ADD YOU SHOULD BE SURE TO DO THE READING FOR THE FIRST CLASS TO SEE IF THIS CLASS IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOU.

9/6 When It Make Sense to End Life(1): Kagan (a) book, pp.162-169, 276 (mid)-281, 318-344, (b) "Me and My Life,"; Kamm, "The Purpose of My Death: Death, Dying, and Meaning," ("The Purpose") pp. 1-14. **Professor Kagan will be present in class.**


10/4 Advanced and End of Life Care: Forrow et al "Patient Centered Care and Human Mortality (2010); Bernacki et al "Developent of the Serious Illness Care Program"; Mack et al "Peace, Equanimity, and Acceptance in the Cancer Experience:"; Kamm, "Advanced and End of Life Care: Some Cautionary Suggestions," "Commentators" and "Responses to Commentators."

10/11 When it Makes Sense to End Life (3): Gawande, chapters 1-4; Emmanuel, "Why I Hope to Die at 75;" Kamm, "Death Wish: Beyond End of Life Care;" MacLean, "Longevity."

10/25  How it Makes Sense to End Life (2): Kamm, "Four-Step Arguments for Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia" (in Bioethical Prescriptions); Velleman, "Beyond Price."

11/1  How it Makes Sense to End Life (3): Gorsuch, chapters 4-6, 9-10; Kamm,"For and Against Assisted Suicide: Objections of Velleman and Gorsuch"


11/22  NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK