

Fall 2021

Thinking About Abortion

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1L Reading Group

W 6:30–8:30

Room TBA

<https://bit.ly/3tvXjtm>

Office hours:

T.W 9:30–10:30

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Welcome! This reading group offers a chance to discuss, in a somewhat relaxed setting, the difficult and important ethical questions raised by the issue of abortion.

These questions are highly abstract and deeply personal; they are the subject both of intellectual inquiry and of intense and heartfelt commitment. The assigned readings take deeply conflicting positions, and each student will certainly disagree with some of them. The hope is that, through civil and respectful discussion, students will be able to appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of different positions and to decide for themselves what they think.

Meetings will be held on occasional Wednesday evenings in the fall semester, per the schedule below. Readings will be available online and in a printed coursepack. There are no response papers or other assignments, but each student should participate fully in the discussions.

Please feel free to attend my office hours; a sign-up sheet is outside my office door. If those times don't work for you, just contact me, and we can try to make other arrangements.

2021.09.18.0914

1 Sept. 22: Persons

- 1.1 John T. Noonan, Jr., *An Almost Absolute Value in History*, in *The Morality of Abortion: Legal and Historical Perspectives* 51, 51–59 (John T. Noonan ed. 1970) 5
- 1.2 Mary Anne Warren, *On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion*, 57 *Monist* 43 (1973) 9
- 1.3 Peter Singer, *Germ of a New Debate on the Ethics of Life*, *The Australian* (Canberra), Dec. 23, 2005, at 10 15
- 1.4 Patrick Lee & Robert P. George, *Human-Embryo Liberation*, *Nat'l Rev. Online* (Jan. 25, 2006, 1:29 p.m.) 19
- 1.5 Sherry F. Colb & Michael C. Dorf, *Beating Hearts: Abortion and Animal Rights* 13–44 (2016) 25

2 Oct. 6: Futures

- 2.1 Don Marquis, *Why Abortion Is Immoral*, 86 *J. Phil.* 183 (1989)..... 59
- 2.2 Colb & Dorf, *Beating Hearts* 96–115 79
- 2.3 J Savulescu, *Abortion, Embryo Destruction and the Future of Value Argument*, 28 *J. Med. Ethics* 133 (2002) 101
- 2.4 D Marquis, *Savulescu's Objections to the Future of Value Argument*, 31 *J. Med. Ethics* 119 (2005) 105

3 Oct. 20: Autonomy

- 3.1 Judith Jarvis Thomson, *A Defense of Abortion*, 1 *Phil. & Pub. Aff.* 47 (1971) 109
- 3.2 John Finnis, *The Rights and Wrongs of Abortion: A Reply to Judith Thomson*, 2 *Phil. & Pub. Aff.* 117 (1973) 129

3.3	Don Marquis, <i>Manninen's Defense of Abortion Rights Is Unsuccessful</i> , 10 Am. J. Bioethics 56 (2010).....	141
3.4	Judith Jarvis Thomson, <i>Rights and Deaths</i> , 2 Phil. & Pub. Aff. 146 (1973).....	143
3.5	I. Glenn Cohen, <i>Artificial Wombs and Abortion Rights</i> , Hastings Ctr. Rep., July 1, 2017.....	149
4	Nov. 3: Equality	
4.1	Sally Markowitz, <i>Abortion and Feminism, in The Problem of Abortion 194</i> (Susan Dwyer & Joel Feinberg eds., 3d ed. 1997)	151
4.2	Reva B. Siegel, <i>Abortion as a Sex Equality Right, in Mothers in Law</i> (Martha Albertson Fineman & Isabel Karpin eds., 1995).....	161
4.3	The Pollitt-Douthat Debate	179
4.4	Michelle Alexander, <i>My Rapist Apologized</i> , N.Y. Times, May 26, 2019, at SR1.....	203
4.5	Ariana Eunjung Cha, <i>Babies with Down Syndrome Are Put on Center Stage in the U.S. Abortion Fight</i> , Wash. Post, March 4, 2018	209