PHIL 210: Applied Ethics (Semester 1 2020)

This year’s topics (at least 3 out of 4, in 2020)

Euthanasia

What are the arguments for and against legalising euthanasia?

Is it ever acceptable to euthanize someone who can no longer confirm that this is what they want?

What are the alternatives to euthanasia and are they more morally acceptable?

Sex Work

What are the arguments for and against the morality of, and legalisation of, sex work?

Is sex work morally just like any other kind of work?

Should sex work be not only legalised but normalised?

Punishment

What justifications are there for our practices of punishment, and are they adequate?

What does it mean to say that offenders deserve punishment, and is it true?

What alternatives to traditional justifications and methods of punishment are there?

Gene Editing

Now that new and powerful gene editing tools are available, what limits, if any, should be on their use?

Is it acceptable to use these new tools to make designer pets, and even designer babies?

Should humanity be using these tools to “evolve” faster?