

Movies with Bioethics Content prepared by Laura Bishop, Ph.D., Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University (updated 5/2015)

Title	Year	Country	Genre	Minutes	Rating	Color or Black & White	Topic
Adam	2009	US	Drama/Romance	99	PG-13	color	Asperger's Syndrome
Age Old Friends	1989	US	Comedy	90	no rating	color	Dementia; (TV Movie)
AI: Artificial Intelligence	2011	US	SF	146	PG-13	color	artificial intelligence
All Quiet on the Western Front	1930 1979	US UK	Drama Drama	145 130	NR NR	b & w color	morality of war
Altered States	1980	US	SF	102	R	color	human experimentation
And the Band Played On	1993	US	Drama	141	R	color	AIDS
Andromeda Strain	1971	US	Drama	131		color	Infectious disease (alien virus)
As Good as It Gets	1997	US	Drama/Comedy/ Romance	139	PG-13	color	mental illness (obsessive compulsive disorder) (some nudity)
At First Sight	1998	US	Drama	129	PG-13	color	blindness; experimental surgery; recovery of sight
Aurora Borealis	2006	US	Drama/Romance	110	R	color	Includes Alzheimer's Disease (grandparent) as part of the plot; early death of a parent
Awakenings	1990	US	Drama	121	PG	color	human experimentation with coma patients

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Away from Her	2006	US	Drama/Romance	110	PG-13	color	Alzheimer's Disease; aging (adaptation by writer-director Sarah Polley of a short story by Alice Munro, "The Bear Came Over the Mountain")
Baby Mama	2008	US	Comedy	99	PG-13	color	surrogate motherhood, assisted reproductive technologies
Beautiful Mind, A	2001	US	Drama/ Biography	136	PG-13	color	mental illness (schizophrenia) (mathematician/game theorist John Forbes Nash, Jr.) (sexual content)
Being John Malkovich	1999	US	Comedy/Drama/ Fantasy	112	R	color	personhood
Benny and Joon	1993	US	Comedy/Drama	98	PG	color	mental illness (schizophrenia)
Best Boy	1979	US	Documentary	111	no rating	color	mental retardation
Bicentennial Man	1999	US	Drama/Fantasy	132	PG	color	artificial intelligence; rights of other "life" forms
Big Business	1988	US	Comedy	97	PG	color	twins reared apart
Big Fish	2003	US	Adventure/Drama Fantasy	125	PG-13	color	death & dying; end of life; family relationships
Bikini Atoll	1998 1946	US	Documentary				testing of the atomic bomb; environmental issues; animal welfare/animal rights
Bill	1981	US	Biography/Drama	100	no rating	color	mentally disabled adult

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Blade Runner	1982	US	SF	118	R	color	genetic engineering (1993 Director's Cut released) (loosely based on Philip K. Dick's novel <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</i>)
Born on the Fourth of July	1989	US	War/Drama/ Biography	144	R	color	Viet Nam vet coping with paralysis from war injuries
Boys From Brazil, The	1978	US	Thriller	123	R	color	Cloning
Brian's Song	1971	US	Biography	73		color	cancer, terminal illness
Charly	1968	US		103	PG	color	mental retardation; scientific experimentation (based on Daniel Keyes' <i>Flowers for Algernon</i> (also television movie, 2000))
Children of a Lesser God	1986	US	Drama	119	R	color	deafness
Cider House Rules	1999	US	Drama	126	PG-13	color	abortion
Civil Action, A	1998	US	Drama	118	PG-13	color	environmental issues; corporate pollution; leukemia (based on non-fiction book <i>A Civil Action</i> by Jonathan Harr; true story of Anne Anderson, her son Jimmy who died of leukemia in 1981, and a neighborhood (Pine Street) of East Woburn, Massachusetts)
Clockwork Orange	1971	US	SF	137	R	color	operant conditioning (based on Anthony Burgess' novel <i>Clockwork Orange</i>)
Cloning of Joanna May, The	1992	US	SF	180	no rating	color	cloning; (film is based on a novel by Fay Weldon by the same title)
Clonus Horror	1979	US	SF	90	R	color	cloning (see also: Parts: The Clonus Horror)

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Cocoon	1985	US	SF / Comedy	117	PG-13	color	Aging
Coma	1978	US	Thriller	113	PG	color	organ transplantation
Contagion	2011	US	SF, Drama, Thriller	106	PG-13	color	pandemic, infectious disease
Creation	2009	US	Biography / Drama	108	PG-13	color	Charles Darwin; evolution; <i>Origin of Species</i> ; relationship between science and religion; death of a child
Critical Care	1997	US	Comedy/Drama	107	R	color	allowing to die
Cure, The	1995	US	Drama	99	PG-13?	color	AIDS
Dad	1989	US	Drama/Comedy	117	PG	color	autonomy; patient rights; parental illness and family relationships; family obligations
Dallas Buyers Club	2013	US	Biography/Drama	117	R	color	AIDS, pharmaceutical drugs
Dark Victory	1939	US	Drama	66	not rated		brain cancer; death and dying
David and Lisa	1962	US	Drama	94	no rating	b & w	disturbed teenagers
Descendants, The	2011	US	Drama/Comedy	115	R	color	persistent vegetative state, advance directives
Dirty Pretty Things	2002	UK	Drama	97	R	color	black market in human organs; illegal immigration (prostitution)

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Diving Bell & the Butterfly, The	2007	France/US	Biography/ Drama	112	PG-13	color	Locked-in Syndrome; neurological issues; Communication (based on life of JeanDominique Bauby and his autobiography which he dictated using the blinking of his eyes) (nudity, sexual content, some language)
Doctor, The	1991	US	Drama	125	PG-13	color	doctor as patient; physicianpatient relationship; cancer
Donor	1990	US	Thriller	100	no rating	color	organ donation
Door to Door	2002	US	Drama/Biography	90		color	cerebral palsy
Double Helix	1987	US	Drama	97	no rating	color	scientific research; discovery of the structure of DNA (based on the work of James Watson and Francis Crick); history of science
Dr. Cyclops	1940	US	Adventure/ Science Fiction/Horror	77	no rating	color	research ethics
Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet	1940	US	Biography/ Drama	103	no rating		scientific research; history of medicine; antimicrobial Salvarsan
Drugstore Cowboy	1989	US	Drama	102	R	color	drug abuse
Dying Young	1991	US	Drama/Romance	111	R	color	death and dying
Eighth Day	1996	US	Drama	118	not rated	color	Down Syndrome
Elephant Man	1980	US	Biography/ Drama/ History	124	PG	b & w	attitudes toward patients with deformities; lymphedema (based on the life of Englishman John Merrick, 1800s)

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Erin Brockovich	2000	US	Biography/ Drama	131	R	color	environmental issues; cancer-causing toxic waste
Eternal Sunshine of a Spotless Mind	2004	US	SF/Drama/ Romance	108	R	color	memory; personhood
Extraordinary Measures	2010	US	Drama	106	PG	color	genetics; research
Extreme Measures	1996	US	Crime/Drama/ Mystery	118	R	color	research ethics; paralysis; based on Michael Palmer's 1991 book Extreme Measures; utilitarian themes; vulnerable populations
Fantastic Voyage	1966	US	Adventure/Science Fiction	100	PG	color	Nanotechnology
Fat Man and Little Boy	1989	US	Biography/Drama/H istory	127	PG-13	color	development of the atomic bomb
Fear Strikes Out	1957	US	Sports/ Biography	100	no rating	b & w	mental illness
Firefly Dreams (original title -"Ichiban utsukushî natsu")	2001	Japanese	Drama	105	no rating	color	Alzheimer's Disease; neighbor caregiver; adolescent caregiver
First, Do No Harm	1997	US	Drama	120	PG-13	color	alternative medicine; philosophy of medicine
Frankenstein	1994	US/Japan	Drama/Horror	123	R	color	human experimentation
Frances	1982	US	Biography	140	R	color	mental illness

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GATTACA	1997	US	SF/Drama/ Adventure	106	PG-13	color	genetics; genetic engineering
Ghosts of Mississippi	1996	US	Drama	130	PG-13	color	Civil Rights Movement; justice; Racism
Girl Interrupted	1999	US	Drama	127	R	color	adolescence; mental illness (borderline personality disorder); treatment of mental illness; drug use (based on the true story of Susanna Kaysen in the late 1960s, see her true book <i>Girl Interrupted</i>)
Gone Baby Gone	2007	US	Drama			color	drug-abusing mother; adoption
Gorillas in the Mist: The Story of Dian Fossey	1988	US	Biography/Drama	129	PG-13	color	animal protection (based on the true story of Dian Fossey)
Great Moment	1944	US	Drama	87	PG-13	color	discovery of ether (1846); surgery; history of medicine (based on the true story of physician Dr. William Morton)
Hable con Ella (Talk to Her)	2002	Spain	Drama/Romance	112	R	color	coma; care-giving; autonomy; Spanish with English subtitles
Hand Maid's Tale	1990	US	Drama/Science Fiction	108	R	color	government control of reproduction; based on a novel by Margaret Atwood
Hilary and Jackie	1998	US	Drama/ Biography	120	not rated	color	multiple sclerosis; music (based on the true story of musician sisters Hilary and Jacqueline de Pre (1950s England)
I Never Promised You a Rose Garden	1977	US	Drama	96	R	color	mental illness
Iceman	1984	US	Fantasy	99	PG	color	Neanderthal / human experimentation

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If These Walls Could Talk	1996	US	Drama	97	R	color	Abortion
Ikuru	1952	Japan	Drama	143	not rated	color	terminal illness; cancer
Inherit the Wind	1960	US	Drama	127	no rated	b & w	Evolution
Intouchables, The	2011	France	Drama/Biography/ Comedy	112	R	color	quadriplegia; living with a life-altering condition; caregiving; home health aids
Iris	2001	US	Drama	91	R	color	Alzheimer's Disease; aging; writing (based on the true story of philosopher Iris Murdoch and her writer husband John Bayley) (see John Bayley's book <i>Iris</i>)
Island, The	2005	US	SF/Drama/ Action	216	PG-13	color	cloning; organ harvesting; surrogate motherhood; involuntary and sacrificial use of clones
Island of Dr. Moreau	1996	US	SF/Horror	96	PG-13	color	genetic engineering
Judgment at Nuremberg	1961	US	War/Historical	178	no rating	b & w	human experimentation
Junior	1994	US	Comedy	110	PG-13	color	male pregnancy
Jurassic Park	1993	US	SF/Action	127	PG-13	color	cloning (dinosaurs), DNA
King of Hearts	1966	France? /UK	War/Drama/ Comedy	102	no rating	color	Institutionalization
Larry	1974	US	Drama	78	no rating	color	man wrongly confined to mental institution

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Life Is Beautiful	1997	Italy	Comedy/Drama/ Romance	116	PG-13	color	Holocaust; concentration camp
Life Support	2007	US	Biography/ Drama	90		color	HIV/AIDS, drug addiction (based on life of AIDS activist Andrea Williams)
Lilith	1964	US	Drama	114	no rating	b & w	therapist/boundary violation
Limitless	2011	US	Mystery/Thriller/SF	105	PG-13	color	pharmacological enhancement; cognitive enhancement
Logan's Run	1976	US	SF	119	PG	color	utopian society of the future(novel of the same name)
Longtime Companion	1998	US	Drama	100	R	color	AIDS
Lorenzo's Oil	1993	US	Drama	129	PG-13	color	alternative medicine; rare conditions; medical establishment; medical experimentation (see NWABR Curriculum Online for curriculum resources; Wash Post obituary May 2008)
Losing Isaiah	1995	US	Drama	111	R	color	drug-abusing mother; adoption
Lust for Life	1956	US	Biography	112	no rating	color	mental illness (based on the lives of Vincent Van Gogh (late 1800s Paris), his brother Theodore, and Paul Gauguin)
M	1931	Germany	Horror/Drama/ Crime	99	no rating	b & w	insanity defense

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Madame Curie	1943	US	Biography/ Drama	204	no rating		scientific research; history of science
Madhouse	1974	UK	Horror	89	PG	color	mental illness
Madness of King George, The	1994	UK?/US	Historical/ Drama/ Biography	107	PG-13	color	physical illness (porphyria) causing mental illness; history of medicine; treatment of the mentally ill; cupping
Mania	1959	UK	Horror	87	no rating	b & w	experimentation on corpses
Mar Adelante (Sea Inside, The)	2004	Spain	Drama	126	PG-13	color	spinal cord injury; quadriplegia; right to die (Spanish language with English subtitles)
Mask	1985		Drama	120	PG-13	color	craniofacial deformities; treatment of persons with physical differences;
Medicine Man	1992	PG-13	Adventure/ Romance/Drama	106	PG-13	color	pharmaceuticals
Metropolis	1926	Germany	Fantasy/Drama	120	no rating	b & w	futuristic, mechanized society
Million Dollar Baby	2004	US	Drama	132	PG-13	color	paralysis; right to die
Miss Evers' Boys	1997	US	Drama	118	PG	color	human experimentation; U.S. Public Health Service study of untreated syphilis among African American men in Tuskegee, AL) (1930s to 1970s Southern US)

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Mr. Jones	1993	US	Romance/Drama	114	R	color	psychiatry boundary violation
Multiplicity	1996	US	SF/Comedy/ Fantasy	1996	PG-13	color	cloning
My Body, My Child	1982	US		100	no rating	color	abortion, birth defects
My Left Foot	1989	US	Biography/ Drama	103	R	color	cerebral palsy (based on the life of Christy Brown, an Irish writer)
My Life	1993	US	Drama	112	PG-13?	color	terminal illness
My Life without Me	2003	Spain	Drama/Romance	106	R	color	terminal illness; dying young; uterine cancer
My Sister's Keeper	2002	US	Drama	90	not rated	color	mental illness (schizoaffective disorder); sibling relationship
Nell	1994	US	Romance/Drama	113	PG-13?	color	research on child raised outside society; language acquisition
Network	1976	US	Drama	121	R	color	media ethics
Never Let Me Go	2010	US	Drama/ Romance	103	R	color	organ donation; adolescents/minors
Night, Mother	1986	US	Drama	96	PG-13	color	Suicide
1984	1984	UK	SF/Drama/ Romance	113	R	color	futuristic society with no privacy
Notebook, The	2004	US	Romance / Drama	123	PG-13	color	Alzheimer's Disease

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Now Is Good	2012	US	Drama/Romance	103	PG-13	color	death and dying; terminal illness – adolescent or minor; leukemia
Now, Voyager	1942	US	Drama	117	no rating	b & w	Psychiatry
Nuts	1987	US	Drama	116	R	color	insanity defense
Of Mice and Men	1939	US	Drama	107	no rating	b & w	mental retardation
On Golden Pond	1981	US	Drama/Comedy	109	PG	color	Aging
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	1975	US	Drama	133	R	color	institutionalization; mental illness; mental health care
One True Thing	1998	US	Drama	127	R	color	death and dying; cancer; Anna Quindlan wrote the novel
Ordinary People	1980	US	Drama	123	R	color	Grief
Outbreak	1995	US	Thriller/Disaster	127	R	color	infectious disease
Passion Fish	1992	US	Drama	135	R	color	spinal cord injury; nursing ethics
Patch Adams	1998	US	Comedy/ Drama	115	PG-13	color	practice of medicine; medical establishment (based on the true story of physician Patch Adams) (strong language)
Philadelphia	1993	US	Drama	125	PG-13	color	HIV/AIDS; homosexuality
Place for Annie	1994	US	Drama			color	pediatric AIDS; drug addiction (made for TV movie)

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Plague Dogs, The	1982	US	Drama	86	no rating	color	animal experimentation
President's Analyst, The	1967	US	Spy/Comedy	104	no rating	color	Satire
Pressure Point	1962	US	Drama	91	no rating	b & w	psychiatrist treats a Nazi prisoner
Pride of the Yankees, The	1942	US	Biography/ Drama/Sports	208	no rating	b & w, and color	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) (Lou Gehrig's Disease) (based on the life of baseball player Lou Gehrig)
Prince of Tides, The	1991	US	Romance/Drama	132	R	color	Psychiatry
Private Worlds	1935	US	Drama	84	no rating	b & w	institutionalization; mental illness; mental health care
Radio Bikini	1987	US	Documentary	56	no rating	color & b & w	atomic bomb; nuclear weapons testing (1946) - "Operation Crossroads" U.S. Military; environmental ethics; obligations to displaced persons; animal welfare; animal rights
Rain Man	1988	US	Drama	140	R	color	Autism
Rain Without Thunder	1992	US	Drama	87	no rating	color	Abortion
Rainmaker	1997	US	Comedy/Drama	135	PG-13	color	lawsuit regarding health insurance for leukemia patient
Regarding Henry	1991	US	Drama	107	PG-13	color	recovery from brain injury; personality change
Robot and Frank	2012	US	Comedy/Drama	89	PG-13	color	artificial intelligence; morality of machines

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Roe vs. Wade	1989	US		100	no rating	color	Abortion
Ryan White Story, The	1989	US	Biography/Drama	105	no rating	color	pediatric AIDS; public health ethics; hemophilia; terminal disease; television movie
Savages, The	2007	US	Comedy/Drama	113	R	color	Alzheimer's Disease; adult children caring for parent
Sea Inside (Mar Adelante)	2004	Spain	Drama	125	PG-13	color	spinal cord injury; quadriplegia; right to die (Spanish language with English subtitles)
Secret of NIMH, The	1982	US	Children's/ Animated	82	G	color	animal experimentation
Silent Fall	1994	US	Drama/Mystery	101	R	color	Autism
Sleeping and Waking	2009	US	Science Fiction/ Drama/Romance	92	no rating	color	death and dying; life after illness; cancer
Sixth Day, The	2000	US	Action/Science Fiction	123	PG-13	color	cloning; "image of God"; theological perspectives
Snake Pit, The	1948	US	Drama	108	no rating	b & w	institutionalization; mental illness
Something the Lord Made	2004	US	Drama	110	no rating	color	pediatric heart defects; racism; surgical and medical innovation
Somethings Gotta Give	2003	US	Romance/Drama/ Comedy	128	PG-13	color	heart disease

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Song for Martin	2001	Swedish	Drama/Romance/	117	PG-13	color	Alzheimer's Disease; Swedish with English subtitles
Southern Comfort	2001	US	Documentary	90		color	transgendered individuals; access to health care; physician responsibility; social acceptance of difference; sexuality; death and dying
Soylent Green	1973	US	SF/Mystery	100	PG	color	Overpopulation
Spellbound	1945	US	Thriller	111	no rating	b & w	psychiatry
Splice	2009	US	Thriller	104	R	color	genetic engineering; animal-human genetic intermingling (warning about language and inter-species sex scenes)
Story of Louis Pasteur	1935	US	Biography/ Drama	87	no rating	b & w	history of medicine
Steel Magnolias	1989	US	Drama/Romance	118	PG	color	diabetes, pregnancy, kidney donation
Streetcar Named Desire, A	1951	US	Drama	122	no rating	b & w	mental illness?
Sylvia	2003	US	Drama/ Biography	100	R	color	mental illness (depression); suicide (based on the life of American poet and novelist Sylvia Plath and her English poet husband Ted Hughes) (nudity, sexuality, language)
Talk to Her (Hable con Ella)	2002	Spain	Drama/Romance	112	R	color	coma; care-giving; autonomy; Spanish with English subtitles

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Terminal Man, The	1974	US	SF	107	PG	color	computer takeover
Three Faces of Eve, The	1957	US	Drama	91	no rating	b & w	mental illness (multiple personality disorder)
Through a Glass, Darkly	1962	Sweden	Drama	91	no rating	b & w	mental illness
Tic Code, The	1998	US	Drama	91	R	color	Tourette's Syndrome; music
Tim	1979	Australian	Romance/Drama				Intellectual developmental issues
Transcendent Man	2009	US	Documentary	83	no rating	color	artificial intelligence
Tuesdays with Morrie	1999	US	Drama	89	not rated	color	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease) (based on the true story of professor Morrie Schwartz, retold in a book by the same name written by Mitch Albom)
Twilight of the Gods	1997	US	Drama	93	PG-13	color	prenatal genetic testing; sexuality (also a play of the same name by Jonathan Tolins)
Verdict, The	1982	US	Drama	129	R	color	medical malpractice
Whales of August, The	1987	US	Drama	90	no rating	color	Aging
What Dreams May Come	1998	US	Drama	113	PG-13	color	grief; suicide?

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Whose Life Is It Anyway?	1981	US	Drama	120	R	color	spinal cord injury; quadriplegia, right to die
Wild Child	1970	France	Drama	83	G	color	research on a child raised outside society; language acquisition
Wit	2001	US	Drama	97	PG-13	color	death and dying; cancer; television movie (see also a play of the same name by Margaret Edson)
Woman's Tale, A	1991	Australia	Drama	93	PG-13	color	dying
X-Men (original and other films in the series)	2000	US	Science Fiction / Action	104	PG-13	color	mutants (genetic?) with superpowers; forces of good and evil
Yellow Jack	1938	US	Drama/ Biography/ History	83	not rated		infectious disease (Yellow Fever); medical research; (based on the true story of US physician Walter Reed and colleagues efforts to determine the cause of Yellow Fever in Cuba in the early 1900s) (Cuban physician Carlos Finlay thought that the disease might be caused by the bite of infected mosquitos)

Resource:

Vankin, Jonathan; Whalen, John. *Based on a True Story* (*But with More Car Crashes): Fact and Fantasy in 100 Favorite Movies*. Chicago: A Cappella Books (An imprint of Chicago Review Press, Inc.), 2005. 446 p. (ISBN: 1-55652-559-1)

The entries provide factual details behind the movies and point out where moviemakers elaborated on or departed from the story. Each entry concludes with a brief reference list to newspaper and journal articles, books, and other publications that offer the true facts of each story. Read the true story behind the films: *A Beautiful Mind* (pp. 1-4); *A Civil Action* (pp. 55-58); *Erin Brockovich* (pp. 14-17); *Ghosts of Mississippi* (pp. 50-54).

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