

Introduction to Biomedical Ethics

Class schedule:---

Class Instructor: Katherine Valde

Office hours: ---

Class Location: ---

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Office Location: ---

Course Description:

This course will survey ethical issues that arise in connection with research, medicine, and biotechnologies. It will examine topics such as the right to healthcare, research on human subjects, euthanasia, abortion, cloning, genetic selection, disabilities, and the biomedical enhancement of human capacities. Students can expect to gain not only training in philosophical ethics and argumentation, but also the resources needed for assessing ethically difficult questions that medical professionals routinely face.

Schedule of Readings:

Week 1: Reasoning and Argumentation

Key Concepts (Weeks 2-3):

Week 2: Ethics and Values

T: James Rachels, "What is Morality" ch1 in *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*

Th: Lewis Vaughn, "Bioethics and Moral Theories" ch2 in *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*

Week 3: Disease

T: Dominic Murphy, "Concepts of Disease and Health", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Th: Marc Ereshefsky, "Defining 'Health' and 'Disease'", *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biology and Biomedical Sciences*

Ethics in Healthcare (Weeks 4-6):

Week 4: Treatment vs. Enhancement

T: Thomas Schramme, "The Significance of the Concept of Disease for Justice in Health Care", *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics*

Th: Buchanan et. al., "Positive and Negative Genetic Interventions" Ch4 in *From Chance to Choice*

Week 5: Is Health Care a Right?

T: Norman Daniels, "Is There a Right to Health Care, and If So, What does it Encompass?" ch 31 in *A Companion to Bioethics*

Tristram Englehardt, "Rights to Health Care, Social Justice, and Fairness in Health Care Allocations", *Foundation of Bioethics*

Th: Allen Buchanan, "The Right to a Decent Minimum of Health Care", *Philosophy & Public Affairs*

Nicholas Rescher, "The Allocation of Exotic Medical Lifesaving Therapy", *Ethics*

Week 6: The Right to Die?

T: Dan Brock, "Voluntary Active Euthanasia", *The Hastings Center Report*

Th: James Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia", *The New England Journal of Medicine*

Ethics in Research (weeks 7-9):

Week 7: What is 'Science'? and The Value-free Ideal

T: Alan Chalmers, "What is This Thing called Science?", Introduction, and Ch. 1 & 2

Th: Heather Douglas, "Values and Science", *Oxford Handbook in the Philosophy of Science*

Week 8: Different Types of Values in Science

T: Helen Longino, "Gender and Racial Bias in Scientific Research" *The Ethics of Scientific Research*

Th: Baruch Brody, "Ethical Issues in Clinical Trials in Developing Countries", *Statistic in Medicine*

Week 9: in Specific Scientific Contexts

T: Cigarettes and Cancer – Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway, "Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming", Introduction and ch. 1

Th: Psychology + Nutrition – Christine Aschwanden, "You Can't Trust What You Read About Nutrition", *FiveThirtyEight*

Eric Michael Johnson, "WEIRD Evolution of Human Psychology", *Scientific American*

Ethics in Biotechnology (Weeks 10-12)

Week 10: Cloning

T: Leon Kass, "The Wisdom of Repugnance", *Valparaiso University Law Review*

Th: Dan Brock, "Cloning Human Beings: An Assessment of the Ethical Issues Pro and Con"

Week 11: Enhancement of Human Capacities

T: Julian Savulescu "Procreative Beneficence", *Bioethics*

Th: Eric Parens "The Goodness of Fragility: On the Prospect of Genetic Technologies Aimed at the Enhancement of Human Capacities", *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*

Michael Sandel "The Case Against Perfection", *The Atlantic*

Week 12: survey fulfillment week! (Topics for this week will be chosen based on results of a student survey)

Possible units include: Reliability of Animal Models in Medicine, Informed Consent, Abortion, Eugenics, and Placebo-Controlled Trials