

## **PHIL3322: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS**

Fall 2014

MWF 2:00-2:50 MCOM 83

### **Instructor**

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Office hours: Tu/Th 12:30-2:00

### **Course Description**

Biomedical Ethics (sometimes simply referred to as “Bioethics”) is the study of ethics as applied to the medical profession (of both the clinical and research sorts). As such, the topics we will be looking at are of interest not only to philosophers, but also to health practitioners, research scientists, and anyone who ever has or will go to the doctor or hospital. Biomedical Ethics covers a broad range of topics, from the doctor-patient relationship to genetics research to the availability of health care to abortion. We will be reading Rebecca Skloot’s multiple-award-winning book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, using this as a touchstone as we progress through the course.

### **Core Texts**

We will be using two texts in this class:

- Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (Broadway Books: 978-1400052189)
- Beauchamp et al., *Contemporary Issues in Bioethics*, 8e (Wadsworth: 978-1133315544)

As well, a number of our readings will be provided as PDFs, as noted in the Course Schedule, below.

### **Course Requirements**

#### ***Papers***

There are two papers assigned during the course of this term. The first paper will be worth 20% of your final grade and will be returned to you with comments. The second paper will be worth 20% of your grade, but will not be returned to you unless specifically requested by you.

- First paper assigned Friday, October 3, and due Friday, October 17.
- Second paper assigned Wednesday, November 19, and due Wednesday, December 3.

Assignments submitted late without explicit extensions or authorized excuses will receive a penalty of one letter grade (10%) per day since the due date. Final papers will not be accepted after Monday, December 8 for any reason.

#### ***Exams***

There will be three exams for this class:

- In class on Wednesday, October 1.
- In class on Monday, October 27
- During the final exam schedule, on Wednesday, December 10 (4:30-7:00 pm).

Each of these exams will be worth 20% of your final grade.

### **Special Accommodations**

- Students with disabilities that require special class or exam accommodations must present a form from AccessTECH Disability Support Program specifying the details during the first week of classes. Their offices are located in 335 West Hall. See [www.accesstech.dsa.ttu.edu](http://www.accesstech.dsa.ttu.edu).
- You will not be penalized for any absences due to religious observances. However, it is your responsibility to inform me in advance of any intended absences for religious observance *as soon as*

*possible* so that we can make other arrangements. As well, it remains your responsibility to have read the material assigned for that day and to obtain any notes from one of your classmates for classes missed.

### **Classroom Courtesy**

Please be courteous to your fellow students and avoid unnecessary disruptions. Arrive on time, leave on time, and *turn off your cell phone during class*. Note that if your cell phone rings during class, *I will answer it*. Laptops are permitted in class, but please do not abuse this privilege. Text-messaging is *not* permitted during my class. If you are seen text-messaging during class-time, your final grade will be deducted 1 percent. This is your only warning.

### **The Writing Center**

Particularly for new philosophy students, I strongly recommend that you work on your paper with a writing tutor. The Writing Center offers *free assistance* in room 175 of the Philosophy and English Building. See <http://english.ttu.edu/uwc01>.

### **Academic Integrity and Irresponsibility**

I take incidents of academic misconduct *very seriously*. These include but are not restricted to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and fabrication. Penalties are dependent on the nature of the misconduct, and may involve disciplinary proceedings with the Student Judicial Programs. Knowing what constitutes academic misconduct is *your responsibility*. If you have a concern about what constitutes academic dishonesty *prior to turning in an assignment*, please see me, and I will be happy to help you. For more information, see <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/academicinteg.php>.

### **Course Schedule (Subject to Change)**

In the schedule below, readings from your textbook (Beauchamp et al., *Contemporary Issues in Bioethics*) will be listed with page numbers in brackets. Readings from *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* will list chapters to be read. Additional readings not found in either book are specified as “PDF” readings, and can be found on the course website.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Introduction	M: 08/25	<i>No Readings</i>
Background on Ethics	W: 08/27	• Beauchamp Ch. 1, “Ethical Theory and Bioethics” ( <i>only</i> 1-20)
	F: 08/29	<i>No Readings</i>
	M: 09/01	<b>No Class</b>
	W: 09/03	<i>No Readings</i>
Abortion	F: 09/05	Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion” (305-314)
	M: 09/08	• <i>Roe v. Wade</i> (323-327) • Warren, “On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion” (PDF)
	W: 09/10	• Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral” (289-296)
The Doctor-Patient Relationship	F: 09/12	• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i> , Prologue—Ch. 5
	M: 09/15	• <i>Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California</i> (45-49) • Kipnis, “A Defense of Unqualified Medical Confidentiality” (50-56) • Hodge, “The Legal and Ethical Fiction of ‘Pure’ Confidentiality” (57-59)
	W: 09/17	• <i>Canterbury v. Spence</i> (72-74) • Katz, “Physicians and Patients: A Study of Silence” (74-78) • Faden & Beauchamp, “The Concept of Informed Consent” (78-82)
	F: 09/19	• Mill, Selection from <i>On Liberty</i> (PDF) • Veatch, “Abandoning Informed Consent” (PDF)

	M: 09/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macklin, “The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures” (PDF)</li> </ul>	
Race & Medicine	W: 09/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 6-8</li> </ul>	
	F: 09/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Munson, “African Americans and Medicine”</li> </ul>	
	M: 09/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King, “The Dangers of Difference” (548-551)</li> <li>• Mays, “Research Challenges and Bioethics Responsibilities in the Aftermath of the Presidential Apology to the Survivors of the U.S. Public Health Services Syphilis Study at Tuskegee” (PDF)</li> </ul>	
<b>Exam 1</b>	W: 10/01	<b>No Readings</b>	
Biomedical Research & Bioscience	F: 10/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 9-17</li> </ul>	<b>Paper #1 Assigned</b>
	M: 10/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singer, “All Animals are Equal” (PDF)</li> </ul>	
	W: 10/08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frey, “Animals” (523-535)</li> </ul>	
	F: 10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The Belmont Report” (535-542)</li> <li>• Mastioianni &amp; Kahn, “Swinging in the Pendulum: Shifting Views of Justice in Human Subjects Research” (542-548)</li> </ul>	
	M: 10/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mello &amp; Wolf, “The Havasupai Indian Tribe Case—Lessons for Research Involving Stored Biologic Samples” (552-555)</li> <li>• Beauchamp, “The Exploitation of the Economically Disadvantaged in Pharmaceutical Research” (556-563)</li> </ul>	
Genetics & Genomics	W: 10/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Ch. 18</li> </ul>	
	F: 10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caulfield &amp; McGuire, “Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing: Perceptions, Problems, and Policy Responses” (195-201)</li> <li>• Robertson, “The \$1000 Genome: Ethical and Legal Issues in Whole Genome Sequencing of Individuals” (215-222)</li> </ul>	<b>Paper #1 Due</b>
	M: 10/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callier, “Swabbing Students: Should Universities Be Allowed to Facilitate Educational DNA Testing?” (201-207)</li> </ul>	
	W: 10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glover, “Questions About Some Uses of Genetic Engineering” (PDF)</li> </ul>	
	F: 10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lappé, “Ethical Issues in Manipulating the Human Germ Line” (PDF)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Exam 2</b>	M: 10/27	<b>No Readings</b>
Justice & Health	W: 10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 19-21</li> </ul>	
	F: 10/31	<b>No Class</b>	
	M: 11/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN, “The Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health” (606-607)</li> <li>• Daniels, “Justice, Health, and Health Care” (608-615)</li> </ul>	
	W: 11/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veatch, “Justice, the Basic Social Contract, and Health Care” (633-639)</li> <li>• Powers &amp; Faden, “Social Justice, Inequality, and Systematic Disadvantage” (624-632)</li> </ul>	
	F: 11/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pogge, “Responsibilities for Poverty-Related Ill Health” (616-623)</li> </ul>	
Patenting Genes	M: 11/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 22-25</li> </ul>	
	W: 11/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resnik, “The Morality of Human Gene Patents” (PDF)</li> </ul>	
	F: 11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nelkin, “Patenting Genes and the Public Interest” (PDF)</li> <li>• WHO, “Analysis: Impact of DNA Patents on Access to Genetic Texts and Genomic Science” (163-169)</li> </ul>	
	M: 11/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dickenson, “Consent, Commodification and Benefit Sharing in Genetic Research” (PDF)</li> </ul>	
Cloning	W: 11/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 26-29</li> </ul>	<b>Paper #2 Assigned</b>

	F: 11/21	• Kass, "Preventing Brave New World" (PDF)	
	M: 11/24	• Pence, "Will Cloning Harm People?" (PDF)	
	W: 11/26	<b>No Class</b>	
	F: 11/28	<b>No Class</b>	
	M: 12/01	• Tooley, "The Moral Status of Cloning Humans" (PDF)	
Epilogue	W: 12/03	• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i> , Chs. 30-38, Afterword	<b>Paper #2 Due</b>

**Final Exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, from 4:30-7:30 pm.**