

PHIL 170.01: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

Fall 2017

Section 170.01

Tuesday and Thursday
3:05 – 4:20
Education Center 111

Instructor

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Glebe 16, Room 300

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

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.

Texts

Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (Broadway Books: 978-1400052189)

All other readings will be made available via OAKS.

Required Work

There will be four take-home exams for this class:

<i>Exam</i>	<i>Assigned</i>	<i>Due</i>
1	Tues, Sept 12	Tues, Sept 19
2	Thurs, Sept 28	Thurs, Oct 5
3	Tues, Oct 24	Tues, Oct 31
4	Thurs, Nov 30	Sat, Dec 9

Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade. Exams will not be accepted late without authorized excuse.

Learning Outcomes

This course counts toward the General Education Humanities requirement. All humanities course must address the following (general) learning outcomes:

- (1) Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture; and
- (2) Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

These outcomes are assessed in the final exam for the course.

Accommodations

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying the instructor as soon as possible and for contacting the instructor one week before accommodation is needed.

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 grade will be deducted 1 percent. This is your only warning. (If you believe that need to use your cell phone or other electronic device during class, please meet with me to discuss this *before* class.)

Attendance

You are permitted three absences from class. After that, for every class you miss without authorized excuse, your final grade will be deducted 1 percent.

Academic Integrity and Irresponsibility

I take incidents of academic misconduct *very seriously*, and I will report any instances of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs. These include but are not restricted to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and fabrication. 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. To learn more, visit: <http://libguides.library.cofc.edu/academicintegrity/>

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Introduction	Tu Aug 22	<i>No Readings</i>	
Background on Ethics	Th Aug 24	• Beauchamp Ch. 1, “Ethical Theory and Bioethics”	
	Tu Aug 29	<i>No Readings</i>	
Abortion	Th Aug 31	• Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion” • <i>Roe v. Wade</i>	
	Tu Sep 5	• Warren, “On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion” • Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”	
The Doctor-Patient Relationship	Th Sep 7	• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i> , Prologue–Ch. 5	
	Tu Sep 12	• <i>Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California</i> • Kipnis, “A Defense of Unqualified Medical Confidentiality” • Hodge, “The Legal and Ethical Fiction of ‘Pure’ Confidentiality”	<i>Exam #1 Assigned</i>
	Th Sep 14	• <i>Canterbury v. Spence</i> • Katz, “Physicians and Patients: A Study of Silence” • Faden & Beauchamp, “The Concept of Informed Consent”	
	Tu Sep 19	• Veatch, “Abandoning Informed Consent” • Macklin, “The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures”	<i>Exam #1 Due</i>
Race & Medicine	Th Sep 21	• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i> , Chs. 6-8	
	Tu Sep 26	• Munson, “African Americans and Medicine”	

	Th Sep 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King, “The Dangers of Difference” • 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” 	<i>Exam #2 Assigned</i>
Biomedical Research & Bioscience	Tu Oct 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 9-17 	
	Th Oct 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singer, “All Animals are Equal” • Frey, “Animals” 	<i>Exam #2 Due</i>
	Tu Oct 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Belmont Report” • Mastioianni & Kahn, “Swinging in the Pendulum: Shifting Views of Justice in Human Subjects Research” 	
	Th Oct 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mello & Wolf, “The Havasupai Indian Tribe Case—Lessons for Research Involving Stored Biologic Samples” • Beauchamp, “The Exploitation of the Economically Disadvantaged in Pharmaceutical Research” 	

Tu Oct 17: Fall Break

Genetics & Genomics	Th Oct 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Ch. 18 	
	Tu Oct 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caulfield & McGuire, “Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing: Perceptions, Problems, and Policy Responses” • Robertson, “The \$1000 Genome: Ethical and Legal Issues in Whole Genome Sequencing of Individuals” 	<i>Exam #3 Assigned</i>
Justice & Health	Th Oct 26	<i>Henrietta Lacks</i> , Chs. 19-21	
	Tu Oct 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN, “The Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health” • Daniels, “Justice, Health, and Health Care” 	<i>Exam #3 Due</i>

Th Nov 2: No Class

Justice & Health	Tu Nov 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veatch, “Justice, the Basic Social Contract, and Health Care” • Powers & Faden, “Social Justice, Inequality, and Systematic Disadvantage” 	
Patenting Genes	Th Nov 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 22-25 	
	Tu Nov 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resnik, “The Morality of Human Gene Patents” • Nelkin, “Patenting Genes and the Public Interest” 	
	Th Nov 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO, “Analysis: Impact of DNA Patents on Access to Genetic Tests and Genomic Science” • Dickenson, “Consent, Commodification and Benefit Sharing in Genetic Research” 	

Wed Nov 22 – Sun Nov 26: Thanksgiving Break

Cloning	Tu Nov 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 26-29 	
	Tu Nov 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kass, “Preventing Brave New World” • Pence, “Will Cloning Harm People?” 	
Epilogue	Th Nov 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 30-38, Afterword 	<i>Exam #4 Assigned</i>

Exam #4 is due by e-mail by 5:00, Saturday December 9.