

PHIL3322-001: BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

Spring 2017

TR 3:30-4:50 Eng/Phil 164

Instructor

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Grader

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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

- Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (Broadway Books: 978-1400052189)
- All other readings for this course will be supplied as PDFs, available in the Course Readings section for this course on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

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

<i>Exam</i>	<i>Assigned</i>	<i>Due</i>
1	Tues, Feb 14	Tues, Feb 21
2	Thurs, Mar 2	Thurs, Mar 9
3	Tues, Apr 4	Tues, Apr 11
4	Tues, May 9	Tues, May 16

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

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.
- 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.

Attendance

For each class you miss without authorized excuse, your final grade will be deducted 1%. After 10 unauthorized absences, you will receive a failing grade in this class regardless of your performance on exams.

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 get to 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)

Introduction	Th Jan 19	<i>No Readings</i>	
Background on Ethics	Tu Jan 24	• Beauchamp Ch. 1, “Ethical Theory and Bioethics”	
	Th Jan 26	<i>No Readings</i>	
Abortion	Tu Jan 31	• Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”	
	Th Feb 2	• <i>Roe v. Wade</i> • Warren, “On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion”	
	Tu Feb 7	• Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”	
The Doctor-Patient Relationship	Th Feb 9	• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i> , Prologue–Ch. 5	
	Tu Feb 14	• <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 Feb 16	• <i>Canterbury v. Spence</i> • Katz, “Physicians and Patients: A Study of Silence” • Faden & Beauchamp, “The Concept of Informed Consent”	
	Tu Feb 21	• Veatch, “Abandoning Informed Consent” • Macklin, “The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Different Cultures”	<i>Exam #1 Due</i>
Race & Medicine	Th Feb 23	• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i> , Chs. 6-8	
	Tu Feb 28	• Munson, “African Americans and Medicine”	
	Th Mar 2	• 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 Mar 7	• <i>Henrietta Lacks</i> , Chs. 9-17	
	Th Mar 9	• Singer, “All Animals are Equal” • Frey, “Animals”	<i>Exam #2 Due</i>

Spring Break

	Tu Mar 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Belmont Report” • Mastioianni & Kahn, “Swinging in the Pendulum: Shifting Views of Justice in Human Subjects Research” 	
	Th Mar 23	<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” 	
Genetics & Genomics	Tu Mar 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Ch. 18 	
	Th Mar 30	<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” 	
	Tu Apr 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glover, “Questions About Some Uses of Genetic Engineering” • Lappé, “Ethical Issues in Manipulating the Human Germ Line” 	<i>Exam #3 Assigned</i>
Justice & Health	Th Apr 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 19-21 	
	Tu Apr 11	<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 Apr 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veatch, “Justice, the Basic Social Contract, and Health Care” • Powers & Faden, “Social Justice, Inequality, and Systematic Disadvantage” 	
	Tu Apr 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pogge, “Responsibilities for Poverty-Related Ill Health” 	
Patenting Genes	Th Apr 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 22-25 	
	Tu Apr 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resnik, “The Morality of Human Gene Patents” • Nelkin, “Patenting Genes and the Public Interest” 	
	Th Apr 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO, “Analysis: Impact of DNA Patents on Access to Genetic Texts and Genomic Science” • Dickenson, “Consent, Commodification and Benefit Sharing in Genetic Research” 	
Cloning	Tu May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 26-29 	
	Th May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kass, “Preventing Brave New World” • Pence, “Will Cloning Harm People?” 	
Epilogue	Tu May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Henrietta Lacks</i>, Chs. 30-38, Afterword 	<i>Exam #4 Assigned</i>

Exam #3 is due by e-mail by 5:00, Tuesday May 16