**PHI 3633: HONORS BIOMEDICAL ETHICS**

**Professor: Ashley Kennedy  
Office: HC 145  
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00-12:00, *and by appointment*  
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**Course Description:**

The field of biomedical ethics encompasses a wide range of issues from difficult private decisions made in clinical settings, to controversies surrounding stem cell research, the implications of reproductive technologies, concerns about international human subject research, public policy in healthcare, and the allocation of scarce resources in medicine.

In this course we will examine medical/ethical issues in five key areas: human subject research, reproduction, pharmaceuticals, end of life care, and global health. We will incorporate insights from philosophy, medicine, and health policy in order to reflectively examine these topics.

Our goals for this course will be to gain an understanding of the philosophical importance of these ethical issues, and to learn to effectively write, speak and evaluate critical arguments concerning them.

**Note of Honors Distinction:** *This course differs substantially from the non-Honors version. First, and most importantly, the course is an agreement between the student and instructor that they will work together collaboratively to ensure a significantly enriched learning experience in a manner consistent with other Honors-designated courses at FAU. This means the course will produce substantive work that reflects interdisciplinarity and connections among academic fields, research and direct access to sources of knowledge pertinent to the field, leadership, creative and critical thinking, and engagement with the world outside the university. Secondly, the writing component of the course will be much more demanding, and will prepare students for upper-division college writing and for work on the* ***Honors Thesis****.*

**Course Evaluation:**

1. Papers 60%
2. Presentation, 15 minutes 20%
3. Participation 20%

**Required Readings:** All of the required readings are available on the website for this course.

**Students enrolled in this course** agree to abide by the[**Honors College Honor Code**](http://www.fau.edu/honors/academics_honor_code.php)  and the [**FAU Code of Academic Integrity**](http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg_4.001_5-26-10_FINAL.pdf)**:** please review these documents.

**Attendance policy**: You are allowed two absences.

**Computer policy**: The use of laptops in class is reserved for those students with sufficient documentation from the Learning Needs and Evaluation Center.

**Cellphone policy**: **NO CELLPHONES.**

**Late Work Policy:** I do not accept late assignments.

**Students with Disabilities**: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities in SR 110 (561-799-8010) and follow all OSD procedures.

<http://www.osd.fau.edu/Rights.htm>

**SCHEDULE:**

1. Course introduction and overview

**Research ethics**

2. **Ethics:** “Some ethical problems in clinical investigation” (Lasagna 1968)

3. **Ethics:** “What makes clinical research ethical?” (Emanuel 2006) <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~cphs/docs/jama-article.pdf>

4. **Effectiveness:** “Do clinical trials work?” (Leaf 2013) <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/14/opinion/sunday/do-clinical-trials-work.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0>

“Lies, damned lies and medical science” (Freedman 2010) <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/11/lies-damned-lies-and-medical-science/308269/>

5. **Epistemology:** “Equipoise and the ethics of clinical research” (Freedman 1987)

“Clinical equipoise and the incoherence of research results” (Miller 2007)

6. **Informed Consent/Coercion:** “Is informed consent always necessary for randomized controlled trials?” (Truog 1999)

“Clarifying confusions about coercion” (Hawkins 2005) **Paper #1 due**

**Reproductive ethics**

7. **Abortion:** “A defense of Abortion” (Thomson 1971)

8. **Abortion:** “The wrong of Abortion” (Lee and George)

9. **Contraception:** “The Rhythm Method and Embryonic Death” (Bovens 2006), “Ageing Gametes and Embryonic Death” (Kennedy 2011)

10. **The right to reproduce:** “Think before you breed” <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/think-before-you-breed/?_r=0>

“Sex selection and the procreative liberty framework” (Demelo-Martin)

11. **The right to reproduce:** “Guarding against coercion while ensuring access”

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/17/3/gpr170308.html>

**Pharmaceutical ethics**

12. **Placebos:** “Placebo use in Clinical Practice” (Bostick 2008) **Paper #2 due**

13. **Placebos:** “Are placebos more effective than treatments?” (Howick 2013)

14. **Antibiotics:** “Bad bugs need drugs” (Talbot 2006)

15. **Antibiotics:** “What’s wrong with Factory Farming?” (Anomaly 2014)

16. **Vaccines:** “The age old struggle against the anti-vaccinationists” (NEJM 2011),

17. **Vaccines:** <http://www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/01/05/autism.vaccines/index.html>

<http://vimeo.com/user5503203/review/103711143/91f7d3d4d8>

**End of Life Ethics**

18. “A life or death situation” <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/21/magazine/a-life-or-death-situation.html?pagewanted=all>, <http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/07/opinion/maynard-assisted-suicide-cancer-dignity/>

19. “Voluntary Euthanasia” <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/euthanasia-voluntary/>

20. IN CLASS DEBATE EXERCISE **Paper #3 due**

**Global Health Ethics**

21. “Ebola, epidemics and ethics” (Donovan 2014)

22. “Where and Why are 10 million children dying every year?” (Black, Morris, Bryce)

**Presentations:**

23.

24.

25.

26.

27. **Summary lecture**