Course Outline: Biomedical Ethics

Suffolk County Community College Fall 2010

PHL 211-300

Instructor: Dr. Emilie Kutash                                                  Room: C015
E-Mail: kutashe@sunysuffolk.edu                                               Tues. / Thurs. 11:00-12:15.

Course Objectives: To educate the student of Biomedical ethics about the basic
principles in making bioethical decisions in medicine. To relate these decisions to the
body of literature on Ethics in general and Ethics as applied to issues concerning
biotechnology of cloning, genetics, end of life issues, beginning of life issues, Ethics of
research on human and animal subjects and public health policy. Student will learn to
analyze case examples and apply theory and legal considerations to these cases.

Text: Gregory Pence: Medical Ethics Fifth Edition

Instructor: Dr. Emilie Kutash: Office Hours By Appointment. If a student wishes
to make an appointment he or she should see Dr. Kutash after class.

Student Requirements for Completion of the Course

You will be required to team up with one other person and present the pros and cons of
one case in class (Handouts will be assigned). There will be two quizzes and a Final
Exam. There are two papers (minimum 5 + pages or one long paper 10+). The quizzes
are worth 10 percent of the grade each, and the final exam is worth 20 percent. The
papers are worth 50% of the grade and class participation will make up the final 10% of
the grade. All students are expected to attend every section of each course for which they
are registered. The student is allowed. two (2) unexcused absences before his/her grade
is affected. Lateness is discouraged and cell phones must be turned off during class. .
Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Aug. 31, Sept. 2.

Tues.: Introduction to Bioethics,

Thurs.: Ethical Theories and Bioethics

Readings: Chapter 8:
Unit I: Death and Dying

Sept. 7, 9 Tues. Requests to Die  (Presentation: An Aids patient who wants to die)

Thurs.: No class Rosh Hashanah

Readings: Chapter. 1, 2

Sept. 14, 16:
Tues. Comas, What is the definition of death  (Presentation: Family wishes and patient autonomy)

Thurs.: Three famous cases: Quinlan, Cruzan and Schiavo

Reading Chap.3, 4

Unit 2: Beginnings of Life: Reproduction, Embryos, Stem Cells

Sept. 21, 23:

Tues.: No Class All college Day

Thurs.: Physician Assisted Dying: Presentation: When the doctor gives a deadly dose).

Sept. 28, 30:

Tues. What is an embryo? Abortion: Part One

(Presentation Mentally ill woman refuses Abortion). Review

*Thurs. Quiz #1: Abortion Part Two

Reading: Chapter 5

Oct. 5, 7:


Stem cells and the politics of reproductive issues.

Thurs.: Reproductive Cloning

Reading Chapter 6, 7
Unit three: Ethics of those unable to decide for themselves: Babies, Children, Animals, The Mentally ill.

**Oct. 12, 14:**
**Tues.** The Ethics of Treating Impaired Babies (*Presentation: Defective newborn*)

**Thurs.** Voluntary and involuntary consent Talking to patients

*Reading:* Chapter 9 and 10

**Oct. 19, 21:**

**Tues:** Using one baby for another *Presentation: A fetus as an organ donor?*

**Thurs.** The Elderly: Elder Care in America

*Reading:* chapter 14

**Oct. 26, 28:**

**Tues.** Review: Medical Research on Animals

*Reading:* chapter 15

**Thurs.:** Mental illness and Involuntary Psychiatric commitment

**Nov. 2, 4:**

Unit Five: public Policy and Individual rights. Research and Inequality in Medicine

**Tues.** Mental Health Homelessness issues continued (*Presentation: The woman who died in a box*)

**Thurs. First Paper Due** Research on Human Subjects

*Reading:* Chapter 10 and 11

**Nov. 9, 11**

**Tues.** Famous and Infamous Research Cases (*Presentation: Healthy subject volunteers to be injured*)

* **Thurs.** Quiz # 2 Scarce Resources (*Presentation: the last bed in the ICU*)
Reading: Chapter 13 and 14

Nov. 16, 18:

Tues.: Film: Michael Moore: Sicko

Thurs: Ethical or not Ethical: Health care and the drug industry

Nov. 23, 25:

Tues. The Ethics of Stopping the Spread of Aids  (Presentation: Sterilizing the Retarded Child)

Thurs. Thanksgiving: Class

Unit 6: Genes

Nov. 30, Dec. 2:

Tues. Allocation of Artificial and Transplantable organs (Presentation: Organ transplants, Americans first?)

Thurs. Biotechnology and the genetic code Genetic testing and Insurance (Presentation: Breast Cancer and Family History)

Dec. 7, 9:

Tues: Film: Gattica

*Thurs.: Second Paper Due. : Genetic engineering.

Dec. 14, 16:

Tues. Genetic intervention in medicine (Presentation: The Doctor and the DRG

Thurs: Review for final

*Dec. 21:  Tues: Final Exam
Supplementary Readings

:
James D. Torr Medical Ethics: Current Controversies Series, Greenhaven Press, 2000 0-7377-0145-5:


and

Genetic Turning points by James C. Peterson, William B. Eerdman Publishing Company, 2001,