

PHILOSOPHY 112
SECTION T1

INSTRUCTOR: COLENA SESANKER
MEETING TIMES: MWF 11:00-11:50 KTRCC D221
CONTACT INFO: csesanker@trcc.commnet.edu

TEXT: BIOETHICS IN A CULTURAL CONTEXT, VINCENT BARRY ISBN# 978-0-495-81408-5 +
VARIOUS PROVIDED TEXTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to a number of issues in bioethics through the lens of human rights. After first introducing basic concepts in human rights, ethics, and religion that are important to bioethics, we will look at some contemporary issues in bioethics including: informed consent and privacy, ownership of tissues and DNA, human embryonic stem cell research, reproductive rights and technologies, human enhancement, and race and genetics.

OBJECTIVES:

To further refine of your own world view.

To develop a sense of the moral issues at stake in these areas of science and technology, and their implications for human dignity, worth, and personhood, understood in a cross-cultural sense

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

3 in-class position papers (10% each), 1 short paper (15%) participation including sporadic quizzes and written responses (10%), Midterm Exam (20%), Final exam (25%)

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:

If there are special circumstances which make it necessary for a student to make up an assignment at a time other than the date scheduled, please be sure to contact me by email or in person *before* the missed assignment so that special arrangements can be made. Make-up writing assignments must be completed within a week of the originally scheduled date. A doctor's note or excuse of equivalent importance must be provided in order to be allowed a make-up exam.

SCHEDULE (subject to further modification)

	Welcome and Intro to course
Week 1: Aug 27-31: Reading: Chapters 1-4 of text 2 Handouts from the President's council on Bioethics: Dan Dennett and Adam Schulman	Introduction to Human Rights and History and scope of Bioethics
Week 2: Sept 4,6 (No class Monday) Handouts: selections from Mill and Kant	Human Rights and Scope of Bioethics continued...
Week 3: Sept 10,12,14 Handouts	Ethical Theory: Natural Law and Utilitarian
Week 4: Sept 17,19,21 Handouts	Ethical Theory: Kantian and Social Contract
Week 5: Sept 24,26,28 Handouts	Ethical Theory: Virtue and Feminist Theory
	In Class Writing 1
WEEK 6: Oct 1,3,5 Chapters 5,6&7 of text Handouts: Nuremberg, Tuskegee and Belmont Report	Informed Consent and Autonomy
WEEK 7: Oct 8,10,12	Informed Consent and Autonomy cont'd...Problems and Dilemmas
WEEK 8: Oct 15,17,19	MIDTERM OCT 17th

