

Lectures for W3995 Spring Term 2011

Wed Jan 19 – Introduction-Dr. Loike

Wed. Jan 26- Science of embryonic stem cells- Dr. Loike

Wed Feb 2- Ethical challenges of embryonic stem cells- Dr. Loike

Wed Feb 9- Human cloning, Neanderthal man, Human-animal chimeras- Dr. Loike

*Wed. Feb 16- Medical Diplomacy- Response to Environmental Disasters- Dr. Jennifer Miller

*Wed. Feb 23- Individual vs population Genetic screening – Dr. Nancy Green

*Wed Mar 2- Designer babies- Dr. Ruth Fischbach

*Wed. Mar 9 – Sex selection – Dr. Maasud Khatami Midterm is due

Monday, Mar 14 - Friday, Mar 18 Spring Recess

*Wed. Mar 23- BEYOND THERAPY-Alternative Medicine- Domenic Marciello

*Wed. Mar 30- Medical tourism and diplomacy-Leslie Sharp

Wed April 6- Brain imaging and neuroethics-

*Wed April 13- Global bioethics of Stem cells and bone marrow transplants – Dr. Suradej Hongeng, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Wed April 20- Passover- no Classes

Wed April 27- The Interrelationship between Science on Religion- Dr. Loike and Rabbi Chaim Loike

Wed May 12- Final due

Description of the Course

This interdisciplinary and interactive course will focus on contemporary issues in bioethics and medical ethics. Each topic will cover both the underlying science of new biotechnologies and the subsequent bioethical issues that emerge from these technologies. Topics will include nanotechnology, stem cell research, neuroethics, genetic screening, human cloning, emerging global infections, and health care technology in the developing world.

Method of Instruction

The methods of instruction include:

1. discussions

2. debates
3. scientific theatre
4. lectures

Assignments. There are three types of assignments:

1. Weekly assignments posted on CourseWorks under "lecture section"- One page limit posted on Courseworks.
2. Off-Site Visits- Students will be required to attend two bioethics Columbia University seminars of their choice and compose an innovative thought or idea that they obtained from the seminar. One page limit. You can obtain a list of all seminars on the CU calendar: <http://www.bioethicscolumbia.org>, or http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cssr/upcoming_cssr_calendar.html.
3. The last assignment is to describe your own formulated strategy to deal with bioethics. What will your strategy be to resolve bioethical dilemmas? One page limit.

All Weekly reading assignments involve about one hour of work. Written assignments should be posted on CourseWorks discussion by Monday 10:00 pm and should be less than one page. All written assignment must be in word format -not in PDF format.

Midterm Assignment: Each student will partner with another student to write an Op Ed piece of about 1000 words in the appropriate format for submission to the New York Times. The content should reflect an original opinion or thought on bioethics and include an appropriate cartoon. The cartoon may be original or obtained legally from the WEB. Selected Midterms will be submitted to the NYTimes or the Columbia University Journal of Bioethics for review. For examples see past issues of the Columbia University Journal of Bioethics (www.columbia.edu/~jdl5).

Final Paper Assignment: Each student will partner with another student to write a creative 3-5 page paper analyzing the bioethical ramifications of a recent scientific paper published in the last six months that describes a new biotechnology. The paper should summarize the new technology, identify the bioethical issues emerging from the technologies and present a novel approach to resolve the bioethical issues.

Method of Evaluation

Class participation accounts for 30% of your grade. The midterm accounts for 30% of your grade, the final accounts for 30% of your grade, and completion of assignments accounts for 10% of the grade.