**BIOETHICS**

**BSC 482**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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| Course Title/Number | BSC 482  Bioethics CRN:2231 |
| Semester/Year  Credit hours | Spring 2018 3 |
| Days/Time | Tues and Thursday 9:30 pm-10:45 am |
| Location | BBSC 128 |
| Instructor  Textbooks | Menashi Cohenford, BSc., MT, Ph.D.  MenashiCohenford, BSc., MT, Ph.D.   1. Practical Ethics, 3rd edition, Peter Singer, Cambridge University Press, 2011.   2. Introduction to Bioethics  Authors: John Bryant, Linda Bagott la Velle, John Searle  Publisher: Wiley & Sons Inc. 2005 ( Hoboken, NJ) ISBN:978-0-470-02198-9  Handouts given in class  It is required that students keep current on events related to the course using new sources, particularly, news papers. |
| Office | BBSC Room 241 H |
| Phone& E-mail | 304-696-2697  [cohenford@marshall.edu](mailto:cohenford@marshall.edu) |
| Office/Hours | TBA Or by appointment |
| University Policies | By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/Policies](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/Policies)/. Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment.  **Policy for Students with Disabilities:** Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in Prichard Hall 117 (304.696.2467) to provide documentation of their disability. Following this, the ODS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student’s instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing, and grading. The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, access the website for the Office of Disabled Student Services: <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> |

**Course Description**

Discuss ethical issues relating to scientific research, environment, and medicine including real case studies and media analysis.

**Course Philosophy& Summary**

People have and will continue to face choices about their conduct and actions. Ethics is the study of the choices people make. With advancements in biotechnology, man has been empowered with a greater control over life - diminishing risk to a multitude of diseases, misfortunes, and adversities. While these advancements have been welcomed with tremendous enthusiasm, they have also generated deep concerns. For example:

* Should these innovations be extended for other applications including the augmentation of human intelligence, longevity, and physical characteristics?
* Should we confer new characteristics to plants and animals?

This course begins with an introduction to ethics and will deepen your understanding of the bioethical issues that might arise from the use of these technologies. Guest speakers including religious and non- religious thought leaders might be from time to time invited to the class to discuss topics relating to bioethics. These presentations will be announced in advance.

Throughout the course, we will use rhetoric as a way to generate and examine arguments about ethical choices. Controversies will be discussed rhetorically as a set of competing arguments, including claims and evidence in support or against those arguments.

Students will be expected to write about and to discuss each of these topics, expanding on one of these subjects with further research and examples at the end of the course. The purpose is to make an ethical analysis and an argument.

The core of this course is exchange of ideas between students, the instructor, and guest speakers. These activities will allow you to learn how to reason and methodically argue your position. It is mandatory that you come prepared to class each week, to listen to others and voice your own perspectives.

**Course Objectives**

* To learn about the principles of ethics, especially as they relate to scientific fields.
* To understand rhetoric, and how scientific and ethical arguments can be understood.
* To apply scientific and ethical principles in your analysis of particular cases.
* To make well-reasoned value judgments about particular cases, and argue your position effectively.
* To write an original paper, using a multi-stage approach, on an issue having to do with bioethics. This will include a researched description of a specific situation, description of a principle, and an original application.
* To orally present the findings of your research clearly.
* To improve your writing skills.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course students should be able to:

* Find and evaluate sources from the library, internet and contemporary news reports;
* Read, interpret and discuss analytically and critically major issues related to the course theme;
* Work with others to present an effective oral evaluation using visual aids and multimedia;
* Engage in informed participation in class exercises and discussion.
* In the development of a research project, to scientifically analyze data, evaluate and incorporate relevant research, and describe potential implications.
* Effectively communicate in relating findings and recommendations resulting from projects.

**Class Participation (25 points)**

The class will be separated into different groups with each group consisting of at least two students. Each week your group must be ready, if asked by the instructor, to discuss the reading assignments in an intelligent manner. The group(s) selected by the instructor must be prepared to make their presentations in PowerPoint format. Student’s participation in class will be tracked throughout the semester.

Participation also includes: Asking questions, discussing issues raised by the instructor or classmates; being attentive and demonstrating interest in whatever is being discussed and communicated.

**Bi-Weekly Assignments**

Bi-weekly, you will be responsible for completing 2-3 page papers that argue a position relating to one of the two most recent topics discussed in class. These papers should use the readings and presentations as a starting point to argue a position on the issue. Suggested topics are indicated in the syllabus, but *may change.*

Evaluation of these bi-weekly assignments will be based on four factors:

1) Does the paper address the topic of the assignment and integrate reading, lecture, and class room discussions?

2) Does the paper clearly articulate your position on the topic?

3) Is the paper well organized with a clear thesis, and is easy to read without mistakes in language or format?

4) Does the paper include in-text citation, chosen from among MLA, APA, or CBE standards for bibliography?

These assignments ***will not be accepted late and must be submitted by their due date*.** Failure to submit a bi-weekly essay on time will result in an F for that assignment. In total there will be a total of six bi-weekly assignments.

**Individual Topic Presentations (20 points)**

During the semester, each student will be assigned at least one topic that he/she will be presenting in class. These presentations must be delivered on the day they are scheduled and must be made in PowerPoint format. Any circumstance that will prevent you from attending class that day must be in advance discussed with your instructor.

**Evaluation of Group Presentations**:

All group presentations will be evaluated using a three part approach:

*Content*: What you say in your oral presentation (topic, focus, supporting materials, language and audience adaptation);

*Organization*: How you arrange your oral presentation (arrangement main points, introduction, conclusion, transitions);

*Delivery*: How you present your information (verbal and nonverbal components).

**Final Paper:**

The final paper (85 points) will be an expansion of one of the shorter bi-weekly papers into a full exploration of a particular issue. This paper should describe a particular situation; focusing on the risks involved and their impact on science, technology and society. It will require significant outside research and documentation.

We will meet together to discuss your plan for the paper. You are expected to use the instructor and the course materials as resources in researching and preparing the project.

**Attendance:** Full attendance credit (30 pts) will be given to students who miss no more than three (3) total class periods (lectures or discussion sections). No attendance points will be awarded to any student who misses more than three (3) total class periods. Allowances may be made for students with extenuating circumstances who have a valid university approved excuse. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to find out what was missed. Punctual attendance to lectures is mandatory.

**Grades**

Student **grades** will be calculated as follows: **Points**

\*Individual bi-weekly assignments (2-3 pages typed) 90

Individual Topic Presentations 20

Class Participation 25 Final Paper 85

Attendance 30

**Total Points** 250

**Final Grade Scale**

The following is presented as a guide only and may be subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

A: 250-225 Represents excellent work

B: 224-200 Represents good work

C: 199-175 Represents average work

D: 174-150 Represents below average work

F: 149 or less Represents unacceptable performance failing to meet the minimum standards for the course

**Policies on Late Work**

Papers are due in class on the assigned day. Lack of time to prepare or computer failure is not an acceptable excuse for submitting late assignments. If you miss a class, you should submit the paper before class.

**Students Requiring Special Needs**

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations should refer to this link <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> which provides information for the educational and physical accessibility support at the university.

**Other Policies:**

The use of cell phones is prohibited in class. Any student using a cell phone will be asked to leave the lecture room.

**Final Paper Assignment**

For the final paper you should write an 8-10 page paper on one of the issues discussed in the course.

Each paper must include:

* A summary of the situation - well supported with a variety of sources.
* A brief background to put the issue of your research in perspective.
* A conclusion explaining why the topic is controversial and how it relates to science, technology and society

The final copy of the paper will be due on **April 23rd, 2018.** The paper will be worth 85 points. You should use in-text citation, and choose among MLA, APA, or CBE standards for both citations and your bibliography.

**Statement on Plagiarism:**

All assignments, whether written or oral, must be the student’s own work. This means the ideas and the words of other students, instructors and sources, whether published or unpublished must be properly acknowledged. Submitting an assignment which is not the student’s original and independent work is known as *plagiarism* and will result in either a reduced or a failing grade, recorded as a zero. Plagiarism may result in more serious sanctions, up to and including failure for the course, and expulsion from Marshall. Plagiarism will be taken very seriously as knowing how to use sources appropriately is essential for a passing the course.

If you are ever unsure about how to credit a source, or whether something constitutes plagiarism, you should consult with your instructor *before* the assignment is graded.

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| **Course Student Learning Outcomes** | **How Practiced in this Course** | **How Assessed in this Course** |
| Students will gain an understanding of:   * What is meant by “Bioethics” * The difference between the various theories in bioethics (e.g., Deontological Approaches, Utilitarianism, the Four Principle Approach, Virtue ethics and Casuistry). * How bioethical principles apply to:   + Environment   + Animal and human research   + Issues and risks relating to genetic modification   + The Human Genome Project * Risks and concerns relating to:   + Cloning and stem cells   + Taking of Life   + Civil disobedience   + Violence and Terrorism   + Socialized Medicine and Medical free Market | In-class examples, discussions, videos, reading materials, and papers written for class. | Your ability to grasp the bioethical issues arising from science, technology and society will be assessed by monitoring: 1) the progression in the quality of your participation, papers, and presentations, 2) Your skills to analyze data, evaluate and incorporate relevant research, and describe potential implications, and 3) Your communication skills in relating findings and recommendations resulting from class projects.  . |

**Dates: \*Lectures and Reading Assignments**

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| Jan 8th -Jan 12th  Week 1 | **Topic of the Week**: Introduction to Bioethics  **Reading Assignments:**  i) Article entitled ‘*Bioethics’* URL site: http://www.iep.utm.edu/bioethic/  ii) Article entitled Ethics for Everyone by Arthur Dobrin (see MU-Online-Week 1)  (**Note**: All Reading Assignments are posted on MU-Online)  **Class Activity**: Watch DVD entitled John Q  **Suggested Topic for First Written Bi-Weekly Assignment:** When it comes to decision making, how do you place yourself?   1. As a person who strictly adheres to virtue ethics. 2) As one who follows a utilitarian trend of thinking. 3) As one who strictly decides based on deontological principles of right and wrong. 4) As one who always adheres to the Four Principle Approach, or 5) As one who at the spur of the moment, without any thought or bias towards any specific ethical principle, decides what to do. |
| Jan 15th -Jan 19th  Week 2 | **Topic of the Week:** Socialized Medicine or Free Medical Market  **Reading Assignments for Written Bi-Weekly Homework:**  i) Reading assignment entitled ‘*Socialized Medicine’.* URL Site: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialized\_medicine  ii) Reading assignment entitled ‘Why Socialized Healthcare is Unjust’ at the URL site http://thefederalist.com/2016/02/19/why-socialized-health-care-is-unjust/  iii) Reading assignment entitled ’17 arguments against socialized medicine’’ at the URL site <https://fee.org/articles/17-arguments-against-socialized-medicine/>  iv) Reading assignment entitled ‘What are some common arguments for and against socialized healthcare on the left and the right?’ URL Site <http://ask.metafilter.com/209686/What-are-some-common-arguments-for-and-against-socialized-healthcare-on-the-left-and-the-right>  **Note**: Reading Assignments are posted on MU-Online  **Team Topic Presentation I:** Material to be discussed comes from  Article entitled Misconduct in Science: Do scientists need professional code of ethics? By: [Vincent Hamner](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/vin_vita.html) Web CT.   1. [Types of Scientific Misconduct](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/ethix_1.html) 2. [What are the Rules of the Game?](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/ethix_2.html) 3. [Which is worse for Science: Negligence or Deliberate Misconduct?](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/ethix_3.html) 4. [Do Scientists Need a Professional Code of Ethics?](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/ethix_4.html)   **Suggested Topic for First Written Bi-Weekly Assignment:** What is socialized medicine? Are you for it or against it, and why? What ethical theory/theories prompted you at arriving the conclusion(s) you reached.  **Due Date:** Jan 22nd, 2018 |
| **Jan 15th** | **Martin Luther King Day** |
| Jan 22nd -Jan 26th  Week 3 | **Topic of the Week:**  Socialized Medicine or Medical Free Market  **Class Activity**: Debate Topic Socialized Medicine or Medical Free Market  **Reading Assignments**:   1. Chapter 1 (About Ethics) in the book entitled Practical Ethics by Peter Singer pages 1-15. 2. The Evolving Idea of Social Responsibility in Bioethics located in MU online under Week 3.   **Recommended but not required reading material:**  Entitled ‘Ethics and Social Responsibility Objectives’ URL site <https://elearning.kctcs.edu/> bbcswebdav/institution/VLI%20Content%20Repository/Business%20Administration/BAS%20283/Module%206%20Unit%203/index.html  **Note**: Reading Assignments are posted on MU-Online  **Team Topic Presentation II**: Human Medical Experimentations-Issues & Risks  Material to be discussed come from the following articles :   1. “The Tuskegee Syphilis” located at the URL site: <http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/33d/projects/medicine/The%20Tuskegee%20Syphilis%20Study.htm>. 2. ‘The Tuskegee Study and its Implications for the 21st Century’ located at URL site:http://www.socialworker.com/feature-articles/ethics-articles/The\_Tuskegee\_Syphilis\_Study\_and\_Its\_Implications\_for\_the\_21st\_Century/   **Suggested Topic for Second Bi-Weekly Written Assignment:**  Define ethics and explain how ethical behavior relates to behavior governed by law and free choice. |
| Jan 29th-Feb 2nd  Week 4 | **Topic of the Week**: The Environment  **Team Topic Presentation III:** Material to be discussed come from the following articles   * Chapter 9 entitled 'Climate Change' pages 216-237 in Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer. * Chapter 10 entitled 'The Environment' pages 238-255 in Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer. * Chapter 3 entitled ‘*Humans and the Natural World’* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.   See the documentary entitled “*A Dangerous Business*” at the URL Site: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/mcwane/view/>  (**Note**: Reading Assignments are posted on MU-Online)  **Class Activity**: View Voyager Season 5 Episode 1 entitled ‘*Night’*  **Suggested Topic for Second Bi-weekly Written Assignment**  How do you balance environmental concerns with economic pressures?  **Due Date: Feb 5, 2018** |
| Feb 5th -Feb 9th  Week 5 | **Topic of the Week**: Equality for Animals?  **Team Topic Presentation IV:**  Material to be discussed come from the following articles:   1. Chapter 4 entitled ‘*Humans and Non-human Animals’* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al. 2. Chapter 3 (pages 48-70) entitled ‘Equality for Animals?  In Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer 3. Chapter 5 (pages 94-122)) entitled ‘Taking Life: Animals" In Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer     **Suggested Topic for Third Bi-Weekly Written Assignment**  Animal Research- Necessary or Not? Take a position on the necessity of using animals for research. |
| Feb 12th–Feb16  Week 6 | **Topic of the Week**: Taking Life  **Class Activity:** View Stark Trek Next Generation Episode Entitled ***Death Wish***  **Team Topic Presentation V:** Material to be discussed come from the following articles:   1. **“**Ethics and Death Chapter 12 “Decisions at the End of Life” in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.” 2. Chapter 4 entitled "What's Wrong with Killing? pages 71-93 in Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer 3. Chapter 7 entitled "Taking Life "Humans" pages 155-190 Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer     **Suggested Topic for Third Bi-Weekly Written Assignment**:  What were all the ethical issues raised in the film? What's the difference between Voluntary, involuntary and non-voluntary euthanasia? What type of euthanasia was sought in the film? Was euthanasia, in this case justified (star trek film-season 5 episode entitled 'ethics') and why?  **Due Date:** Feb 19th, 2018 |
| Feb 19th -Feb 23rd  Week 7 | **Topic of the Week**: Rich and Poor  **Reading Assignment for fourth bi-weekly essay:** Chapter 8 entitled 'Rich and Poor' pages 191-215 in Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer.  **Team Topic Presentation VI:**  Material to be discussed come from the following article:  **‘**Reproduction- Chapter 10 “*The New Reproductive Technologies ’* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.’  **Suggested Topic for Fourth Written Bi-Weekly Assignment**  Do you agree or disagree with the following statement and why? '  ‘We should look after those near us, our families and then the poor in our own country before we think about poverty in distant places.’ |
| Feb 26th- March 2nd  Week 8 | **Topic of the Week**: The Embryo and the Fetus  **Reading Assignments**  'Taking Life' The embryo and Fetus' pages 123-154 in Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer.  “Is it moral or immoral to have abortion” <https://www.thoughtco.com/ethics-of-abortion-248020>  **Team Topic Presentation VII**: Material to be discussed come from the following articles:  Reproductive Technologies and the Risk of Birth Defects. The New England Journal of Medicine. 2012, 366:1803-1813. URL Site <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1008095#t=article>.  Chapter 6 entitled 'Taking Life' The embryo and Fetus' pages 123-154 in Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer.  **Suggested Topic for Fourth Bi-Weekly Assignment:** How do you view physicians who actively perform abortions on a routine basis? Some opponents of this practice argue that it is murder, whereas others suggest that these physicians are just simply serving their role as health care providers.  **Due date**: March 5, 2018 |
| March 5th- March 9th  Week 9 | **Topic of the Week**: Civil Disobedience, Violence and Terrorism  **Team Topic Presentation VIII**: Material to be discussed come from the following articles:   1. Chapter 11 entitled 'Civil Disobedience, Violence and Terrorism' pages 256-275 in Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer. 2. Types of Terrorism and 9/11 by George Pumphrey   URL Site <http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/PUM306A.html>  URL Site: http://globalresearch.ca/articles/306A.html  **Suggested Topic for Fifth Bi-Weekly Assignment**  Adherents of consequentialism judge terrorism, like every other practice, solely by its consequences. Do you agree or disagree with them saying that?  'Terrorism is not considered wrong in itself, but only if it has bad consequences on balance.' |
| Mar12th- Mar 16th  Week 10th | **Topic of the Week**: Genes and the Human Genome Project  **Team Topic Presentation IX**: Material to be discussed come from the following articles   * Moral and Ethical Issues in Gene Therapy. On Blackboard   URL Site:  <http://www.srtp.org.uk/srtp/view_article/moral_and_ethical_issues_gene_therapy>   * What are the ethical issues surrounding gene therapy? On Blackboard   URL Sile:<https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/primer/therapy/ethics>   * Eugenomics-eugenics and ethics in the 21st century. On Blackboard   **Suggested Topic for Fifth Bi-Weekly Assignment**  Making deliberate changes in the genes of future children removes some of their autonomy. If parents want to design children with certain characteristics (e.g, intelligence in math and sciences) that will remove some life style choices from those children. Are we placing an undue burden on genetically altered children? Where are the lines to be drawn?  **Due date: March 19, 2018** |
| Mar 19th- Mar 23rd  Week 11 | **SPRING BREAK** |
| Mar 26th- Mar 30th  Week 12 | **Topic of the Week**: Bioethics of Genetic Manipulation  **Class Activity**: Watch DVD film entitled “The Island of Dr. Moreau  **Team Topic Presentation X:** Material to be discussed come from the following articles:     1. Human Animal Hybrid URL Site: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human%E2%80%93animal_hybrid> 2. Human Animal Chimeras: What Are We Going to Do?   URL Site: <http://web.cs.ucdavis.edu/~rogaway/classes/188/fall11/p208.pdf>   1. Human Genetic Engineering Current Science and Ethical Implications   URL Site: http://www.councilforresponsiblegenetics.org/pagedocuments/yn3rbrq4go.pdf  **Suggested Topic for Sixth Bi-Weekly Essay**    If the blending of animal and human DNA results, intentionally or not, in mixed entities possessing degrees of intelligence or sentience never before seen in nonhuman animals, in your opinion, should these entities be given rights and special protections? |
| April 2nd-April 6th  Week 13 | **Topic of the Week**: Cloning and Stem Cells  **Class Activity:** Watch Enterprise Season 3 Episode 10 entitled “Similitude’  **Team Topic Presentation XI:** Material to be discussed come from the following articles:   1. Chapter 9 “Cloning and Stem Cells” in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.   Discussion on Current Science and Policy   1. Ethical Considerations (Cloning) URL Site: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-ethical-consideration/> 2. The ethics of human cloning and stem cell research. URL Site: <https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focus-areas/bioethics/resources/the-ethics-of-human-cloning-and-stem-cell-research/>   **Suggested Topic for Sixth Bi-Weekly Essay**  Propose arguments for or against whether it wise to cut off a whole branch of medicine such as cloning because of ethical concerns?  **Due date: April 9th, 2018** |
| April 9th-April 13th  Week 14 | **Topic of the Week**: The Most Good You Can Do  **Team Topic Presentation XII:** Material to be discussed come from:  Chapter 12 entitled 'Why Act Morally' pages 276-295 in Practical Ethics 3rd Edition by Peter Singer.  Video : Peter Singer-What’s the most good you can do? |
| April 16th- April 20th  Week 15 | **Class Activity**: A day at the library (April 17)  Review Topics for the Final Paper  Discuss requirements for the preparation of the final essay  **Submission of Final Paper**  **Due date: April 23rd, 2018** |
| April 23rd- April 27th  Week 16 | View a DVD film covering a controversial Ethical Topic (TBD)  Discuss Issues |

\* Denotes that this syllabus is presented as a guide only and may be subject to change at any time at the instructor’s discretion.