**BIOETHICS IST 442 CRN 3799**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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| Course Title/Number | IST 442  442 Bioethics |
| Semester/Year  Credit hours | Spring 2014 3 |
| Days/Time | M,W,F2 pm-2:50 pm |
| Location | Morrow Library Room 122 |
| Instructor  Textbook  Other Reading  Materials | MenashiCohenford, BSc., MT, Ph.D.  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  It is required that students keep current on events related to the course using new sources, particularly, news papers.  Beyond Therapy: Biotechnology and the Pursuit of Happiness  A report by the President’s Council on Bioethics  Foreword by: Leon R. Kass, M.D., Chairman  Avalable at:  <http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/pcbe/reports/beyondtherapy/beyond_therapy_final_webcorrected.pdf>  Handouts given each week in class |
| Prerequisites | IST 220 or Instructor’s Permission |
| Office | BBSC Room 241 H |
| Phone& E-mail | 304-696-2697  [cohenford@marshall.edu](mailto:cohenford@marshall.edu) |
| Office/Hours | T: 2 pm-3 pm  Th: 10 am-11 am, and 2 pm to 3 pm  F: 9 am to 10am, 4 pm-5 pm  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 be 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 <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802> 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. |

**Course Description**

Discuss ethical issues relating toscientific research, the 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 thinkers will be invited to discuss topics relating to bioethics, including medical and environmental ethics.

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.

**Weekly Assignments**

You will be responsible for completing weekly 2-3 page papers that argue a position relating to that week’s topic. 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 shorter assignments will be based on three 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?

Considering that you are allowed to drop the lowest grades on these papers, they will not be accepted late. As part of your portfolio, you are required to hold on to these papers.

**Longer Assignments**

The semester project will be an expansion of one of the shorter papers into a full exploration of a particular issue. This paper should describe a particular real situation, discuss a rhetorical or ethical principle, and apply it to evaluate that situation. 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, course materials, and the course’s guest speakers as resources in researching and preparing the project. The final presentation will be a shortened oral version of the paper.

Each student should submit a final portfolio that includes:

i) Copies of one’s weekly short papers with the instructor’s comments on each.

ii) Class notes and the drafts of final semester project showing its evolution during the course.

**Grades**

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

**Points**

\*Weekly class papers (2-3 pages typed) 100

Final Project Proposal (Oral and written) 10

Oral Presentation of Final paper 20 Final Paper 80 Class participation 30

Portfolio of Work 10

**Total Points** 250

\*Denotes scores of top 10 papers, with the bottom three dropped

**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 are not acceptable excuses for submitting late assignments. If you will miss a class, you should submit the paper before class. The lowest three grades will be disregarded; a situation that allows for both planned absences and unavoidable emergencies.

Periodic drafts of the final paper may be required by the instructor for review. Failure to submit drafts when due will result in a five point deduction from your overall course score.

Presentations must be delivered on the day they are scheduled. Any circumstance that will prevent you from doing so must be discussed with and approved by the instructor according to the University’s Excused Absence Policy.

**Attendance**

Your attendance and participation is expected. Missing a class is only allowed in case of exceptional circumstances. The University’s Excused Absence Policy will be adhered to.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. If, in the instructor’s opinion, absences are excessive a student’s final grade may be lowered by one grade.

**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 paper on one of the controversies discussed in the course.

The paper will have 3 major parts. Each part should be 2-4 pages in length, with drafts developed in advance of the final version.

1) The description of a recent situation dealing with bioethics. Draft due in class **April 16th**. Feedback will be provided to guide your revisions, which can be turned in with the final paper, or earlier for additional feedback.

Components include:

* A summary of the situation - well supported with a variety of sources.
* A brief background to put this issue in perspective.
* An explanation of why it is controversial and important.

2) A discussion of one or more ethical principles that you will apply to the situation. Draft due in class **April 23rd** . Use the textbook to get you started, but you will also need to look at some original sources.

Components include:

* Discussion of how you will apply specific bioethical principles to your topic.
* Justification of why the principles you have selected are appropriate for this situation.

3) An argument advocating your own position on the ethical dilemma.

Components include:

* Your position on the topic, based in the research you’ve conducted in the previous sections.
* A logical conclusion to the first two parts of the paper, articulating your position.

The final presentation (**week of April 28th**) will be a shortened oral version of the paper with emphasis on your final argument. The final copy of the paper will be due on **April 28.**The paper will be worth 80 points towards your final score; the oral presentation will be worth 20 points.

You should use in-text citation, and choose among MLA, APA, or CBE standards for both citations and your bibliography. A copy of your final paper must be uploaded to General Education Assessment Repository (GEAR), which can be accessed at [www.marshall.edu/gear](https://outlookweb.marshall.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=KGOQbMiz50Ot2MM0tNKwI5id4csK0tAIf6EF6TBu-ADA7sZQWcSbeZAYUQZaRdYk-xGkdkH72W0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.marshall.edu%2fgear). Failure to complete this task will result in a five point reduction in your overall score.

On **May 2nd**youwill submit a final portfolio that includes copies of your weekly short papers with my comments, course notes, copies of sources, and drafts of the final semester project to demonstrate its evolution over the course. The portfolio should look professional and be well organized with tabs/dividers for sections. This portfolio is worth 10 points toward your final score. Portfolios will be available for you to get back, following the submission of final grades.

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|  | **How Practiced in this Course** | **How Assessed in this Course** |
| Students will gain an understanding of:   * The principles of bioethics * How these principles apply to:   + Environmental ethics   + The ethics of animal and human research   + The ethics of genetic modification   + The Human Genome Project   + Genetic patenting, genetic piracy, and genetically modified crops * Bioethical concerns relating to:   + Cloning and stem cells   + Issues before birth   + Decisions at the end of life   + Use of unethically derived research   + Other related issues | In-class examples, discussions, videos, reading materials, and papers written for class. | Your ability to grasp the bioethical principles will be assessed by monitoring the progression in the quality of your participation, papers, and presentations. |

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

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| Jan13th -17th  Invited Guest Speaker  Week 1 | **Topic of the Week**: Introduction to the course and Bioethics  Dr. Lydia Patton (Jan 16th and Jan 18th)  Associate Professor of Philosophy  Virginia Tech  **Reading Assignments**  i) Article entitled “Bioethics” at the URL site <http://www.iep.utm.edu/bioethic/>  ii) <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/publichealth-ethics/>  iii) Chapter 2 entitled ‘*Ethics and Bioethics’* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  ii) Handout entitled “Introduction to Ethics and Bioethics by Michael J. Reiss:  iii) Handout entitled Ethics for Everyone by Arthur Dobrin  **Homework**  First paper’s topic: TBD  **Due Date:** Jan 17th |
| Jan 20th | **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday :** Univ. Closed |
| Jan 20th-24th  Week 2 | **Topic of the Week:** What is Science  i) Chapter 1 entitled ‘*Science and Society*’ in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  ii)Article entitled ‘Distinguishing Science from Pseudoscience’ at the URL site <https://webspace.utexas.edu/cokerwr/www/index.html/distinguish.htm>iii) Article entitled ‘Distinguishing Science and Pseudoscience’ located at the URL site <http://www.quackwatch.org/01QuackeryRelatedTopics/pseudo.html>  **Homework**  Second paper’s topic: What is Science and Pseudoscience?  Explain how you define *Science*, and how your understanding of *Science* has changed?  **Due Date:** Jan 24th |
| Jan 27th–Jan 31st  Week 3 | **Topic of the Week**: Misconduct in Science   * [Types of Scientific Misconduct](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/ethix_1.html) * [What are the Rules of the Game?](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/ethix_2.html) * [Which is worse for Science: Negligence or Deliberate Misconduct?](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/ethix_3.html) * [Do Scientists Need a Professional Code of Ethics?](http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/ethix_4.html)   **Reading Assignments**) 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) located at the URL site  <http://www.files.chem.vt.edu/chem-ed/ethics/vinny/www_ethx.html>ii) Appendix Section entitled ‘A code of ethics for bioscience’ in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  **Homework**  Third paper’s Topic: Find and describe an example of misconduct in research  **Due Date:** Jan 31st |
| Feb 3rd-Feb 7th  Week 4 | **Topic of the Week**: Environmental Ethics and Business Ethics  **Reading Assignments**  i) Chapter 3 entitled ‘*Humans and the Natural World’* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  ii)Article entitled [“The Social Responsibility of a Corporation is to Increase Profits” by Milton Friedman](http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/libertarians/issues/friedman-soc-resp-business.html) located at the URL site:  [http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/libertarians/issues/friedman-soc-resp-business.html](http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/libertarians/issues/friedman-soc-resp-business.html%20)  See the documentary entitled “*A Dangerous Business*” at the URL Site:  <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/mcwane/view/>  **Homework**  Fourth paper’s topic: How should we balance environmental ethics and business needs?  **Due Date:** Feb 7th |
| Feb10th – Feb 14th  Week 5 | **Topic of the Week**: Ethics of Human and Non human Animals  **Reading Assignments**  Chapter 4 entitled ‘*Humans and Non human Animals’* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  *Marshall University Animal Resource Facility: Animal Care and Use* Program at link:  [http://musom.marshall.edu/arf/documents/MU%20Animal%20Care%20%20Use%20Program%202012.pdf](http://musom.marshall.edu/arf/documents/MU%20Animal%20Care%20%20Use%20Program%202012.pdf%20)  **Homework**  Fifth paper’s topic: Animal Research- Necessary or Not? Take a position on the necessity of using animals for research. Indicate the importance of the university’s animal care and use program.  **Due Date:** Feb 14th |
| Feb 17th–Feb 21st  Week 6 | **Topic of the Week**: Biotechnology and Ethics  **Reading Assignments**  Chapter 5 entitled ‘*Biotechnology and Bioethics”* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  Chapter 6 entitled ‘*Applications of Genetic Modification”* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  Handout entitled ‘Ethics for Everyone’ by Arthur Dobrin (A Previous Reading Material)  **Homework**  Sixth paper’s topic: Propose a possible subject for your final project having to do with bioethics.  **Due Date:** Feb 21st |
| Feb 24th –Feb 28th  Week 7 | **Topic of the Week**: Genes and Bioethics  **Reading Assignments**  Chapter 7 “Human Genes and the Human Genome Project” *”* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  Chapter 8 “Genes-*The Wider Issues*” in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  **Homework**  Seventh Paper’s Topic- Why is it important to protect genetic information?  **Due Date**: Feb 28th |
| March 3rd –March 7th  Week 8 | **Topic of the Week**:  Who Owns the Information? Intellectual Property: Patenting, and Piracy of Genes  **Reading Assignments**  Handout provided by Instructor entitled” Ownership Rights in Science-On Evolving Norms of Intellectual Property” by H. Zuckerman  Handout provided by Instructor entitled ‘Intelligent Property and Diverse Rights of Ownership in Science” by H. Zuckerman.  Both located at the URL Site:  <http://www.garfield.library.upenn.edu/essays/v12p178y1989.pdf>  Chapter 8 “Genes-*The Wider Issues*” in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.(Previous Reading Material).  **Video:** NBC's Pete Williams shares details on the Supreme Court's unanimous decision that says human genes cannot be patented, but Synthetic DNA is patentable.  <http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/06/13/18935727-supreme-court-says-genes-cant-be-patented-patient-advocates-and-researchers-cheer?lite>  **Homework**  Eight’s Paper Topic: Should we allow the patenting of genes?  **Due date**: March 7th |
| March 10th-March 14th  Week 9 | **Topic of the Week**: Cloning and Stem Cells  **Reading Assignments**  Chapter 9 “Cloning and Stem Cells” in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  Discussion on Current Science and Policy  **Homework**  Ninth’s Paper Topic: What are the ethical issues involved with cloning and stem cell research? Are these technologies appropriate to use, and if so, what should the limitations be?  **Due date**: March 14th |
| March 17th –March 21st  Week 10 | **Spring Break** |
| March 24th–March 28th  Week 11 | **Topic of the Week**: Reproductive Ethics  **Reading Assignments**  Reproduction- Chapter 10 “*The New Reproductive Technologies ’* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  New Born Testing- Chapter 11 “*Embryos, Fetuses, and Abortion’* in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  **Homework**  Tenth’s Paper Topic: How should we balance the interests of parents and society?  **Due date:** March 28th |
| March 31st –April 4th  Week 12 | **Topic of the Week**:  Ethics at the End of Life : Discussion of the Death of Nancy Cruzan”  **Reading Assignment**  Ethics and Death Chapter 12 “Decisions at the End of Life” in Introduction to Bioethics by John Bryant et al.  Article entitled “Court and the end of life–The case of Nancy Cruzan” located at the URL site [‘http://www.libraryindex.com/pages/590/Court-End-Life-CASE-NANCY-CRUZAN.html’](http://www.libraryindex.com/pages/590/Court-End-Life-CASE-NANCY-CRUZAN.html)  Article entitled ‘Nancy Cruzan: The right to die debate’ located at the URL site<http://nancycruzan.webs.com/>.  **Homework**  Eleventh Paper’s Topic: How should we balance the interests of the patient, caretakers, and society?  **Due date:** April 4th |
| April 7th- April 11th  Week 13 | **Topic of the Week**: Research Ethics  **Reading Assignment**  Article entitled “The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment” located at the URL site<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0762136.html>  Article entitled ‘Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and Ethical Issues Present ‘at the URL site<http://voices.yahoo.com/tuskegee-syphilis-experiment-ethical-issues-present-7576098.html> |
| April 14th- April 18th  Week 14 | Preparation of the final Project  **Discussion**  To be determined based on topics chosen by students for final paper  Feedback on background section of paper  **Homework**  Twelfth Paper’s Topic: Draft of Background Section of Final Paper  Preparation of the final Project  **Due date:** April 16th |
| April 21st- April 25th | Preparation of the final Project  **Discussion**  To be determined based on topics chosen by students for final paper  Feedback on ethical principles and arguments section of paper  **Homework**  Thirteenth Paper’s Topic: Draft of Ethical Arguments section of Final Paper  **Due date:** April 23rd |
| April 28th-May 2nd  May 2nd  Week 15 | **Final Papers Due April 28th**  **Oral Presentations this week** |

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