

Liberal Studies Degree Program
Course Syllabus LSHV 414

Global Bioethics

Fall Semester, 2018, 6:30-9:30 PM
Thursdays, August 30-December 13, 2018

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Course Description

The birth of bioethics as a field of study is generally identified as a mid 20th century phenomenon that occurred largely within the United States. But important issues of moral concern regarding the interface of humanity and technology can only be meaningfully understood in a global context. The purpose of this interdisciplinary course is to conduct ethical analyses of a cluster of cutting edge issues in order to understand the human values and policy issues at stake. Key topics will include: international exchanges of human tissues, organs and body parts, whole genome sequencing and the personal genome map, public health ethics including management of communicable disease, cross border reproductive care, pharmaceuticals and the developing world, nanotechnology, human subjects' research, animal research and sports ethics. Each class or two will be based on at least one important controversy and debate will be encouraged.

Course Outline

August 30, 2018 Introduction, brief history of bioethics and basic schemes of ethical reasoning
Beauchamp, Walters et al. pp. 1-35.

September 6, 2018 Justice and Health Care
Beauchamp, Walters et al., pp. 598-666.

Concept Paper due: What is Global Bioethics as an area of thought, study and even political activity? Please draft 4-5 pages of response to this foundational question and understand that this is a very preliminary request and that your thinking may very well change as you progress through the course. You do not need to cite references at this point although you are certainly welcome to do so. The purpose of this early assignment is to determine whether you can make fundamental distinctions about this area of knowledge, can attach these ideas to basic concepts in philosophical ethics and also identify and describe possible political and social implications of these topics.

September 13, 2018 International Exchanges of Tissues, Organs and Body Parts
Beauchamp, Walters et al., pp. 471-505.

September 20, 2018 Whole Genome Sequencing.

Beauchamp, Walters et al., pp. 201-222.

Go to www.bioethics.gov to read *Privacy and Progress in Whole Genome Sequencing*, selected sections.

September 27, 2018 Cross Border Reproductive Care

Beauchamp, Walters et al. pp. 234-272

Paper 1 is due.

October 4, 2018 Public Health Ethics: Management of Communicable Diseases

Beauchamp, Walters et al. pp. 669-733.
Plus handouts re: TB, flu, ebola, zika

October 11, 2018 Pharmaceuticals and the Developing World

Beauchamp, Walters et al. pp. 556-569.

October 18, 2018 Public Health Ethics and Pharmaceuticals (cont.)

October 25, 2018 Nanotechnology: Ethical, Legal and Social Implications

Go to www.bioethics.gov to read the transcript of the meeting of the former President's Council on Bioethics, September 7, 2007, Session 5: Nanotechnologies and Ethics: European and Global Perspectives.

Nov 1, 2018 Sports Ethics: International Competition and Enhancements

Bioethics Briefing Book, #33, Sports Enhancement

Paper 2 is due.

November 8, 2018 Research Using Human Subjects

Beauchamp, Walters et al. pp. 535-563.

The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, *Moral Science, Protecting Participants in Human Subject Research*, 2012.

November 15, 2018 Research Using Animal Subjects

Beauchamp, Walters et al. pp 514-534.

November 29, 2018

Biotechnology Entrepreneurship: Hope for the global community?

Greenwood, James C. "Unleashing the Promise of Biotechnology to Help Heal, Fuel, and Feed the World," Chapter 1, pp. 3-13 in *Biotechnology Entrepreneurship* ed. Craig Shimasaki, Elsevier, Oxford UK, 2014. (This reading will be made available to students in advance.)

December 6, 2018 International Voices in Bioethics: What Organizations Are Most Active?

December 13, 2018 Course wrap-up.

Paper 3 is due.

Required Texts

Beauchamp, T.L., Walters, LeRoy, Kahn, J.P., Mastrionni, A.C. *Contemporary Issues in Bioethics*, Eighth edition, US: Wadsworth, 2014.
ISBN-13:978-1-133-31554-4.

U.S. Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, selected reports available online at www.bioethics.gov

The Hastings Center, *Bioethics Briefing Book*, www.thehastingscenter.org (available for free online!)

Course Requirements

Students will be required to submit one preliminary paper and three short papers of approximately 6-8 pages each. The first paper (due after the initial concept paper), should consist of a newspaper-type article, similar to those that appear for example in the *International Herald Tribune*, intended to acquaint the public with a recent scientific advance and its associated ethical issues (6-8 pages). The second paper should consist of a short briefing paper that a staff member might prepare to acquaint an ambassador or other public official in the U.S. about a current bioethics issue and its global implications (6-8 pages). The third paper should consist of a draft policy document that is intended to promote some international cooperation related to one of the issues that we have considered in the course (3-5 pages). Papers should convey original work prepared by the student for this class alone.

In addition to preparing these papers, students are expected to **complete the required readings**, attend class and actively participate in class discussions. Each student will be assigned to facilitate class discussion for one of our course topics. (Papers = 60% of grade, i.e. 20% each; Class participation = 40% of grade). Points will be deducted for work that is submitted late. The general grading rubric will be: A = 93-100, A- = 89-92, B+ = 87-88, B = 84-86, B- = 80-83, C+ = 77-79, C = 74-76, C- = 70-73, 69 and below = unsatisfactory.

Learning Goals and Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

Identify and describe some of the major issues in global bioethics,

Analyze the ethical dimensions and human values implications of these problems,

Synthesize relevant information across disciplines of philosophy, ethics and science in order to demonstrate an understanding of the relevant issues,

Compare and contrast the national versus international/global implications of these important problems, and

Anticipate future developments in global bioethics both in relation to topics and the most meaningful forms of ethical analysis.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at the first class meeting is mandatory. Students may miss **no more than one class session** in order to remain in the course and more than one excused absence may result in the withdrawal of the student from the course. More than two absences usually results in withdrawal from the course as sufficient contact hours would not be met to warrant the award of the credit or grade.

Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity

During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university's web site or call

(202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet.

If the university is closed, check your e-mail for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation.

The university has acquired the capability to send text messages and recorded messages about emergencies to cell phones and other mobile devices. Sign up on MyAccess.

Honor Code

MALS and DLS students are responsible for upholding the Georgetown University Honor System and adhering to the academic standards included in the Honor-Code Pledge stated below:

In pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor; and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Turnitin.com

Students acknowledge that by taking this course, all required papers can

Be submitted for a Textual Similarity Review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com.site.

In accord with university policy, all incidents of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail. If the Honor Council finds that a student has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student may receive a grade of F for the course.

Disability Notice

Please note: If you believe that you have a disability, then you should contact the academic Resource center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information: 202-687-8354 or arc@georgetown. The Center is located in the Leavey center, suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Policy Accommodating Students' Religious Observances

The following is university policy:

Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professor in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes.

Title IX at Georgetown

<https://titleix.georgetown.edu/>

Sexual Misconduct

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") prohibits discrimination based on sex in any educational programs, which includes sexual harassment or any acts of sexual misconduct. Title IX requires the University, upon becoming aware of any incident of sexual harassment and misconduct to respond appropriately to protect and maintain the safety of the University community, including students, faculty, and staff.

Georgetown University prohibits sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking.

Discrimination based on sex, including sexual misconduct and discrimination based on pregnancy or parenting status, subverts the University's mission and threatens permanent damage to the educational experience, careers, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff.

Please know that as a faculty member I am committed to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, including relationship violence and sexual assault. However, University policy also requires me to report any disclosures about sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to coordinate the University's response to sexual misconduct.

Georgetown has a number of fully confidential professional resources who can provide support and assistance to survivors of sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct. These resources include:

Jen Schweer, MA, LPC

Associate Director of Health Education Services for Sexual Assault
Response and Prevention
[\(202\) 687-0323](tel:(202)687-0323)
jls242@georgetown.edu

Erica Shirley

Trauma Specialist
Counseling and Psychiatric Services
(CAPS)
[\(202\) 687-6985](tel:(202)687-6985)
els54@georgetown.edu

More information about campus resources and reporting sexual misconduct can be found at:
<https://sexualassault.georgetown.edu/get-help>.

Pregnancy Adjustments and Accommodations

Georgetown University is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for pregnant and parenting students. Students may request adjustments based on general pregnancy needs or accommodations based on a pregnancy-related complication. Specific adjustments will be handled on a case by case basis and will depend on medical need and academic requirements.

Students seeking a pregnancy adjustment or accommodation should follow the process laid out at: <https://titleix.georgetown.edu/student-pregnancy>.