

Professor: Professor Robert Streiffer

Meeting: Thursday, 12:00 – 2:00, 5184A Helen C. White

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Course Objectives:

1. To improve your familiarity with the facts, concepts, theories, and arguments from the relevant ethical and legal literature.
2. To improve your ability to think about and discuss the ethical and legal issues in this area, including your ability to critically examine your own views.
3. To be more appreciative of opposing viewpoints on controversial ethical and legal questions.

Requirements:

1. Read all of the assignments, read them carefully, and read them critically. In a small seminar, the contribution that each person makes to the discussions is important.
2. Attend all the classes and participate in the discussions.
3. A term paper, 3600 – 4200 words (12 – 14 pages) in length, on a topic of your choosing (although I'm happy to help you choose), written in two drafts and worth 60% of your grade. You must submit a paper proposal, 300 words (1 page) in length, at the beginning of class on March 6. You must submit a rough draft, 2400 words (8 pages) in length, at the beginning of class on April 3. And the final draft is due at the beginning of class on May 8.
4. Reaction papers: Each class, write a short reaction paper of 300 – 450 words (1 – 1 ½ pages) arguing for some thesis about the reading for that week. Worth 30% of your final grade.
5. Discussion questions: Each class, write up 3 questions that you have about the readings to help promote discussion. Worth 10% of your final grade.

Materials:

- Bonnie Steinbock, *Life Before Birth: The Moral and Legal Status of Embryos and Fetuses*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992).
- Carl Cohen and Tom Regan, *The Animal Rights Debate* (Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2001)
- Course Reader

Schedule

1. **1/23 Introduction, Factual Background**
 - No Readings
2. **1/30 The Interest View**
 - Feinberg, "The Rights of Animals and Unborn Generations," in *Philosophy and Environmental Crisis*, edited by William T. Blackstone (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1974), 43-67
 - Steinbock, 3 - 42
3. **2/6 Abortion**
 - Steinbock, 43 – 88

- Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," in *The Abortion Controversy*, edited by Louis Pojman and Francis Beckwith (Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1998), 117 - 131
 - Francis Beckwith, "Arguments form Bodily Rights: A Critical Analysis," *ibid.*, 132 - 150
4. **2/13 The Legal Status of the Fetus in Non-Abortion Contexts**
- Steinbock, 89 - 126
5. **2/20 Maternal-Fetal Conflicts**
- Steinbock, 127 – 164
 - Fost, "Maternal-Fetal Conflicts: Ethical and Legal Considerations"
6. **2/27 Fetal Research**
- Steinbock, 165 - 194
7. **3/6 Embryo Research and Reproductive Technologies**
- Steinbock, 194 - 220
8. **3/13 Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research I**
- National Bioethics Advisory Council, *Ethical Issues in Human Stem Cell Research*, selections
 - John Robertson, "Ethics and Policy in Embryonic Stem Cell Research," in *The Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 9: 109 – 136
 - Richard Doerflinger, "The Ethics of Funding Embryonic Stem Cell Research: A Catholic Viewpoint," *ibid.*, 137 - 150
- 3/20 Spring Break**
9. **3/27 Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research II**
- Jonathan Harris.2001. "The Survival Lottery" in *Bioethics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 300-315.
 - Julian Savulescu. 2002. "The Embryonic Stem Cell Lottery and the Cannibalization of Human Beings:, in *Bioethics* 16: 508-529.
10. **4/3 Human Cloning I**
- Presidents Council on Bioethics, *Human Cloning and Human Dignity: An Ethical Inquiry*, Chs 2 (History) and 5 (Therapeutic)
11. **4/10 Human Cloning II**
- Presidents Council on Bioethics, *Human Cloning and Human Dignity: An Ethical Inquiry*, Chs. 4 (Reproductive), 7 (Policy options), and 8 (Policy recommendations)
12. **4/17 Genetic Engineering of Humans**
- Dan Brock et. al., *From Chance to Choice*, Chs. 4 and 5
13. **4/24 The Precautionary Principle**
- Foster, Vecchia, and Repacholi, "Science and the Precautionary Principle," *Science* 288 (5468) May 12, 2000, 979-981.
 - Edward Soule, "Assessing the Precautionary Principle," in *Public Affairs Quarterly*. 14 (4): October 2000. 309-328.

- Sven Ove Hansson, “Decision Making Under Great Uncertainty,” in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, Vol. 26 No. 3, September 1996, 369-386.
- Indur Gokany, “The future of Food,” in the *Forum for applied Research and Public Policy*, Vol. 16 No 2. Summer 2001.

14. 5/1 The Precautionary Principle (Continued)

**15. 5/8 Animal Experimentation and Genetic Engineering
Final Draft of Paper Due**

- R. G. Frey, “Medicine, Animal Experimentation, and the Moral Problem of Unfortunate Humans,” in *Scientific Innovation, Philosophy, and Public Policy*, eds. by Ellen Frankel Paul, Fred D. Miller, Jr., and Jeffrey Paul (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)., 181 – 211.
- David E. Cooper, “Intervention, Humility, and Animal Integrity,” Ch. 11 in *Animal Biotechnology and Ethics*, eds. Alan Holland and Andrew Johnson (London: Chapman and Hall, 1998)., 145 – 155.
- Bernard E. Rollin, “On Telos and Genetic Engineering,” Ch. 12 in *Animal Biotechnology and Ethics*, eds. Alan Holland and Andrew Johnson (London: Chapman and Hall, 1998)., 156 – 171.