

# Medical History and Bioethics 558

Syllabus for Ethical Problems Raised by Biomedical Technology  
Spring 2008

Modified Jan 18, 2008

Instructors:	Phone	E-mail
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**Organization:** This class meets Tuesdays from 11:00 – 12:15 for lectures, and on Thursdays at the times below for small group discussions. This is a survey course in bioethics, for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. Our goal is to familiarize students with the range of issues and arguments found in the literature of bioethics, and to encourage independent and critical thinking and writing on these topics.

Lecture: Tuesdays, 11:00 – 12:15, 5106 Social Science

Discussions: Thursdays

DIS 302	11:00-12:15	B313 Van Vleck	Ahlberg
DIS 303	9:30 – 10:45	B313 Van Vleck	Ahlberg
DIS 304	2:30 – 3:45	144 Van Hise	Ahlberg

Office Hours:

Jaime Ahlberg                      W 9:30-11:30                      5119 Helen C. White Hall

**Reading:** The primary text for the course is *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine*, by Bonnie Steinbock, John Arras, and Alex London (6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2003). It is available at University Bookstore. Page numbers that follow are keyed to this book. Other readings for this course will be available on the Ebling Library website.

**Grading:** Students will be evaluated on the basis of weekly quizzes (20% total), based on the readings for that week; a 1200 – 1500 word (4 – 5 page) mid-term paper (30%), and a 2400 – 3000 word (8 – 10 page) final paper (50%). Put your name and discussion section on the first page of the paper, along with a final word count. Papers must be submitted either on disk or by e-mail attachment (to facilitate written comments by the instructor), but a printed copy must be hand delivered at the beginning of class on the due date to confirm that the paper has been received. The final grade can be raised or lowered by unusually constructive participation in discussion, or by an unusual lack of it. The mid-term paper is due at the beginning of class, March 13; the final paper at the beginning of class May 8. Never turn in the only copy of your paper.

**Attendance:** Attendance at lectures and discussion groups is required and can affect your grade. Minimum attendance for a passing grade = 12 lectures and 12 discussion sessions.

Students who anticipate needing an “incomplete” grade should read carefully the University’s policy, at [http://registrar.wisc.edu/students/acadrecords/grades\\_and\\_policy/the\\_incomplete.php](http://registrar.wisc.edu/students/acadrecords/grades_and_policy/the_incomplete.php).

Students considering dropping the course should read that policy, at:  
[http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/70bascom/academic\\_policy/drop.html](http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/70bascom/academic_policy/drop.html)

**Schedule:**

1.	1/22	Introduction	Fost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Film: “Who Shall Survive”</li> <li>(b) “Introduction: Moral Reasoning in the Medical Context”, 1 – 41</li> </ul>			
2.	1/29	Consent	Gretchen Schwarze MD
Readings: To Be Announced			
3.	2/5	Experimentation	Fost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) “The Nuremburg Code”, 705</li> <li>(b) “The Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital Case” by Jay Katz, 706</li> <li>(c) “Rebuttal Affidavits for Respondent” by Chester M. Southam and Emanuel E. Mandel, 707 – 709</li> <li>(d) “How and by Whom Should the Consequences of Research Be Reviewed,” 710</li> <li>(e) “The Willowbrook Hepatitis Studies” by David J. Rothman and Sheila M. Rothman, 718 – 721</li> <li>(f) “The Willowbrook Hepatitis Studies Revisited,” Saul Krugman. 722-727.</li> <li>(g) “Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.” Allan Brandt, 727-737.</li> <li>(h) “Tuskegee Re-Examined,” Richard Shweder. <a href="http://www.spiked-online.com/sections/essays/index.htm">http://www.spiked-online.com/sections/essays/index.htm</a> (Available on website)</li> </ul>			
4.	2/12	Abortion	Robert Streiffer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) “The Unspeakable Crime of Abortion” by Pope John Paul II, 461 - 462</li> <li>(b) “Why Abortion is Immoral” by Don Marquis, 463 – 470</li> <li>(c) “Why Most Abortions Are Not Wrong” by Bonnie Steinbock, 471-482</li> <li>(d) “A Defense of Abortion” by Judith Jarvis Thomson, 483 – 491</li> <li>(e) “The Morality of Abortion” by Margaret Olivia Little, 492 – 500</li> </ul>			
5.	2/19	Reproductive Technology	R. Alta Charo, JD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) “The Presumptive Primacy of Procreative Liberty” by John Robertson, 595-604</li> <li>(b) “Instruction on Respect for Human Life in its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation by the Vatican Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith, 605-614</li> <li>(c) “What is Wrong with Commodification?” by Ruth Mackin, 615-624</li> <li>(d) “Selling Babies and Selling Bodies” by Sara Ann Ketchum, 625-630</li> </ul>			
6.	2/26	Stem Cells and Cloning	Robert Streiffer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) “Cloning Human Beings: An Assessment of Ethical Issues Pro and Con” by Dan W. Brock, 631-642</li> </ul>			

- (b) "Preventing a Brave new World: Why We Should Ban Human Cloning Now" by Leon R. Kass, 643 – 655
- (c) "Human Cloning: Myths, Medical Benefits, and Constitutional Rights" by Mark D. Eibert, 656 – 664
- (d) "Even If It Worked, Cloning Wouldn't Bring Her Back" by Thomas H. Murray, 665 – 667
- (e) "Respect for Human Embryos" by Bonnie Steinbock, 668 – 671
- (f) "Creating Embryos for Research: Weighing Symbolic Costs" by Maura A. Ryan, 672 – 682

7.	3/4	Genetic Screening	Pilar Ossorio, JD PhD
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- (a) "The Introduction of Cystic Fibrosis Carrier Screening into Clinical Practice: Policy Considerations" by Benjamin S. Wilfond and Norman Fost, 501 – 512
- (b) "Ethical Issues and Practical Problems in Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis, Jeffrey R. Botkin, 534-543
- (c) "Using Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis to Save a Sibling," Bonnie Steinbock, 544-545.
- (d) "Reproductive Freedom and Prevention of Genetically Transmitted Conditions," Allen Buchanan, Dan W Brock, Norman Daniels, Daniel Wikler, 546-552 et al, 546-552
- (e) "Genetics and the Moral Mission of Health Insurance" by Thomas H Murray, 557-562
- (f) "Patient Autonomy and Value Neutrality in Nondirective Counseling," by Robert Wachbroit and David Wasserman 563-570

8.	3/11	The Wisconsin Cystic Fibrosis Newborn Screening Study	Fost
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- (a) Fost NC and Farrell PM. A Prospective randomized trial of early diagnosis and treatment of cystic fibrosis: a unique ethical dilemma. Clinical Research, 37(3):495-500, 1989. on e-reserve

\*\*\*\*March 18\*\*\*\*\*Spring Break\*\*\*\*\*

9.	3/25	Foregoing Life-Sustaining Rx	Julie Fagan, MD
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- (a) State of Tennessee Department of Human Services v. Mary C. Northern, 283 - 286
- (b) "Transcript of Proceedings: Testimony of Mary C. Northern" 287 - 289
- (c) "Deciding for Others: Competency" by Allen Buchanan and Dan W. Brock, 290 - 300
- (d) "A Chronicle: Dax's Case As It Happened" by Keith Burton, 301 - 304
- (e) "Commentary" by Robert B. White, 305 - 306
- (f) "Commentary" by H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. 307 – 308
- (g) "The Living Will: Help or Hindrance?" by Stuart J. Eisendrath and Albert R. Jonsen, 309 - 315
- (h) "The Health Care Proxy and the Living Will" by George J. Annas, 316 – 319

- (i) “Testing the Limits of Prospective Autonomy: Five Scenarios” by Norman L. Cantor, 320 - 322
- (i) “The Severely Demented, Minimally Functional Patient: An Ethical Analysis” by John D. Arras, 333-340
- (j) “Quality of Life and Non-Treatment Decisions for Incompetent Patients: A Critique of the Orthodox Approach” by Rebecca S. Dresser and John A. Robertson, 357 - 367
- (k) “The Limits of Legal Objectivity” by Nancy K. Rhoden, 368 - 376

10.	4/1	Foregoing Treatment Of Children: The Baby Doe Story	Fost
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Readings: To Be Announced

11.	4/8	The Definition of Death	Fost
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- (a) “Defining death,” 245-249
- (b) “The Definition of Death,” President’s Commission, 259-268
- (c) “The Impending Collapse of the Whole Brain Definition of Death,” Robert Veatch, 268-276
- (d) “How much of the brain must be dead?”, Baruch Brody, 277-282.
- (e) “Reconsidering the dead donor rule: Is it important that organ donors be dead?”, Fost N. Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal 14(3):249-260, 2004 (available on website)

12.	4/15	Human Growth Hormone: Treatment vs. Enhancement	Fost
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Readings: To be announced

13.	4/22	The Ashley X Case	Fost, Walton Schalick, MD PhD
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Readings: To Be Announced

14.	4/29	The Definition of Health	Dan Hausman, PhD
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Readings: To Be Announced

15.	5/6	Performance Enhancing Drugs	Fost
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- (a) Norm Fost. “Banning drugs in sports: a skeptical view,” *Hastings Center Report*, August 1986, 5 – 10.
- (b) Norm Fost, “Stop the Hassle about Drugs,” USA Today, Sept. 16 – 18, 1988
- (c) Norm Fost, “Ben Johnson: The World’s Fastest Scapegoat,” The New York Times, Oct. 20, 1988
- (d) Norm Fost, “Let ‘em Take Steroids,” The New York Times, September 9, 1983.
- (e) Thomas Murray, “The Coercive Power of Drugs in Sports Hastings Center Report, August 1983, 24 – 30.