A. Course Description and Objectives

The revolution in biotechnology has given man powers unimaginable just a few decades ago. Human life is being created in the laboratory with in vitro fertilization and such life may eventually result in a laboratory "birth". The capacity to splice human to non-human genetic material now exists and the ability to alter the human genome may not be far away. It is now possible to keep a person "alive" virtually indefinitely using a respirator, cardiac pacemaker and intravenous feeding of artificial food. Ethical dilemmas which were once no more than interesting and entertaining speculations about the future are now an everyday reality. This reality impacts not only upon the scientist and health professional but also upon all individuals as consumers of health services and shapers of social policy in the realms of scientific inquiry and medical care.

The Bioethics course is offered as a senior level seminar which will provide students with a framework for identifying, reflecting upon and resolving bioethical dilemmas. The emphasis will be upon understanding the moral conflicts raised by the application of scientific discovery and technology to modern medicine and resolving those conflicts in a pluralist context.

B. Teaching Methods and Materials

Classes will be held from 16:05 to 17:55 each Thursday from September 7, 1989 to April 5, 1990. These sessions will utilize a combination of lecture, discussion, case consultation, guest speakers, short films and oral presentation by the students. Questioning and interchange between the professor or guest lecturer and students as well as amongst the students themselves will be an important part of the learning process.

A bibliography of selected readings for each class will be available to students. It will include both required readings for each class as well as references to additional relevant materials. All required readings will be photocopied and available at the Geography Department. The text selected for the course is Principles of Biomedical Ethics (2nd ed.) by T. Beauchamp and J. Childress.

1. Written Assignments

There will be 4 written assignments the first term on subjects of the student's choosing. They should be short (5 double-spaced typewritten pages), focusing on one problem, issue or case and should show the student's personal analysis. These are not meant to be detailed or lengthy research papers.
Suggestions: Analyze an article (it may be from the reading list) giving your viewpoint.

Select a medical condition, such as Alzheimer's Disease, and discuss what ethical questions may be encountered in a patient's care and treatment.

Review a book, movie or TV show which deals with a question of bioethics.

The second half of the course will give students the opportunity to focus on research projects of their own choosing. Research methodology will be explored, beginning with choosing a topic and using a library. Seminar times will be used for progress reports as well as class discussions of the papers themselves. The research projects will be discussed more fully at the beginning of the second term.

2. Oral Presentations

During the first term, each student will be assigned a topic or question to prepare for presentation in class. These reports should last no more than 10 minutes per student. During the second term, students will make oral presentations of the materials prepared for their research papers.
Possible Research Topics

- Research Involving Human Subjects
- Should There Be Limits to Scientific Inquiry?
- Treatment of Defective Newborns
- Relationship Between Law and Morality in Medical Matters
- Truth Telling and the Right to Information
- New Reproductive Technologies
  - In Vitro Fertilization
  - Artificial Insemination
  - Surrogate Motherhood
  - Embryo Freezing
- Establishing Ethical Principles in a Pluralist Society
- Ethical Aspects of Medical Confidentiality.
- Involuntary Hospitalization of the Mentally Ill
- Fetal Surgery and Maternal Rights
- The Body as Property
- Sterilization of the Mentally Retarded
- Ethical Problems Arising from Development and Use of Recombinant DNA
- Abortion: Medical or Non-Medical Act?
- Research or Experimentation Involving Children
- Problems of Informed Consent in Randomized Drug Trials
- Ethical Issues Involved in Compulsory Genetic Screening
- Euthanasia and Aid to Suicide
- Aids and Confidentiality
- Aids and Mandatory Screening
- Withholding Nutrition & Hydration to the Dying Patient
- Aids and Mandatory Blood Testing
- Rationing Scarce Health Care Resources
- Medical Decision Making and the Elderly Patient
- Medical Decision Making and the Adolescent Patient
- Fetal Tissue Transplants

Any other appropriate topic suggested by the student may be explored as well.
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SCIENCE AND HUMAN AFFAIRS  

"Seminar in Science and Human Affairs: Bioethics"  
SCHA 454/3 Section AA  

Fall/Winter 1989/90  
Professor Kathleen Cranley Glass  

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Term I Class Schedule  

Sept. 7  Introduction: Course Objectives, Methodology, Materials  
         Student Evaluations  

Sept. 14  The Range of Issues  
          Basic Principles  

Sept. 21  The Patient as Person: Truth Telling and Consent  

Sept. 28 Abortion  
         5 page paper due  

Oct. 5  Genetic Screening  

Oct. 12  New Reproductive Technologies  

Oct. 19  Surrogate Motherhood  
         5 page paper due  

Oct. 26  The Limits of Scientific Inquiry: Recombinant DNA  

Nov. 2  Gene Therapy  

Nov. 9  Organ Replacement: Human and Artificial  
         5 page paper due  

Nov. 16  The Body as Property  

Nov. 23  AIDS: The Ethical and Legal Issues  

Nov. 30  Withholding and Withdrawing Treatment  
         5 page paper due
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class #2:  - General Overview, The range of Issues, Basic Principles

*Beauchamp and Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics (2nd ed.) (1983), pp.3-58
Beauchamp and McCullough, Medical Ethics (1984), pp. 22-51
Beauchamp and Walters, Contemporary Issues in Bioethics (2nd ed.) (1982), pp.1-42

Gilligan, In a Different Voice (1982), pp.16-21 & 64-69


Toulmin, "How Medicine Saved the Life of Ethics" in DeMarco and Fox (eds.), New Directions in Ethics, pp. 265-281


* indicates required reading
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class #3: The Patient as Person: Truth Telling and Consent


* Bok S. "Lies to the Sick and Dying" in Beauchamp and Walters (2nd ed.) pp. 175-180.


* Williams, W. C., "The Use of Force" in Life Along the Passaic River, pp. 131-135.

Consent Forms


Veach, R., Case Studies in Medical Ethics, pp. 43-48.

* indicates required reading.
Bibliography

Class #4: Abortion


*United States Supreme Court, Roe v. Wade 410 U. S. R. 113 (1973) excerpts.
Bibliography

Class #5: Genetic Screening


* Fletcher, J., "Costs and Benefits, Rights and Regulation, and Screening" in Biomedical Ethics, Mappes and Zimbaty (eds.).


*Milunsky, A., "Genetic Counseling" in Genetic Disorders and the Fetus (2d ed.) (1986), pp. 1-29


BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class #6: New Reproductive Technologies


*Albury, R., "Who Owns the Embryo", in Test Tube Women, Arditi, Klein and Minden (eds), pp. 55-65.


"Identical Twin Sisters Born 17 months Apart", Gazette 23/05/89.


Class #7: Surrogate Motherhood


* Werhane, P. "AGAINST the Legitimacy of Surrogate Contracts", in Richardson, pp.21-40.

*"When Baby's Mother Is Also Grandma... And Sister" Case Study, Hastings Center Report.

* indicates required readings
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class #8: The Limits of Scientific Inquiry: Recombinant DNA


BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class #9: The Body As Property


"Medical Researchers Can't Exploit Body Tissues Without Patients’ Consent" August 23, 1988 57 LW 1030.

Moore, V. The Regents of the University of California 249 Cal. Rptr. 494 (Cal. App. 2 Dist. 1988) (headnote).


Those readings marked with an asterisk are required.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class #10: Organ Replacement: Human and Artificial


*Beauchamps; T. and Childress, J. Principles of Biomedical Ethics (2nd ed.) pp.183-220.


*“The Subject is Baby Fae” Hastings Center Report 15: 1: 8-17 (1985).

Those readings marked with an asterisk are required.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class #11: Gene Therapy


*Fletcher, J., "Ethical Issues in and Beyond Prospective Clinical Trials of Human Gene Therapy" 10 Journal of Medical and Philosophy (1985) pp. 293-309.


*Case study: Gene Therapy for Thalasemia.

7 Questions concerning Gene Therapy.

*indicates required reading.
Class #12: Experimentation with Human Subjects


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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Class #13: Withholding and Withdrawing Treatment

* Beauchamp & Children. pp.115-143, Cases 17,18 & 19

Criminal Code, sections 197(1)(c), 199, 202-205, 207


   Ramsay, P. Ethics at the Edges of Life (1978) 148-188.

Readings marked with an * are required.