**Course Instructor:**
Sinead Bresson Ladegaard Knox.  

**Introduction to the course:**
Biology is the study of life. Biotechnology is the industrial application of our knowledge of life. Science and technology in the 20th century have provided mankind with the power to manipulate the make-up of man. The fear and perplexity that many people, patients and non-patients, feel towards much biology, medicine and biotechnology show the need for ethical reflection. This course focuses on biomedical ethics which concerns the identification, analysis and resolution of ethical questions and problems arising in planning for the care of patients.

But science and technology have not only called for a bio-ethics. Once laws define the limits to intervention in the lives of all living beings, then law is no longer merely a superstructure to the given social establishment, but an expression of the respect which people ought to have for man's body and nature in general.

The complexity and questions of biomedical ethics are great, because it touches the very core of what it means to be a human being. What is man and what do we want man to become?

**Course objectives:**
The primary objective of this course is to provide students with the intellectual tools requisite for examining fundamental questions in biomedical ethics, in particularly clinical ethics.

The course aims to discover connections between ethical conceptions, judicial practices and legislative procedures and to seek a clarification within the complexity of biomedical ethics and the attempt to legislate morality. Given this, secondary objectives include familiarizing the students with the two classical forms of ethical argumentation and evaluation.
The course will focus on biomedical ethics in Europe. Hence, it will give an in
depth demonstration of the four ethical principles (autonomy, dignity, integrity and
vulnerability) that the EU and the Danish Government are supporting as basic
principles to be respected in bio- and genetecology.

Course Content:
The course is basically broken down into 3 different aspects of the subject:

1. Ethics: The Two Classic Approaches to Ethics and The Four Ethical Principles in
   Bioethics & Biolaw
   will introduce the student to the teleological and deontological way of thinking ethics.
The student will learn to identify and argue from these two different ethical
perspectives. The student will also examine the ethical foundation of the European
way of viewing the problems involved in biomedical ethics.

2. Concrete Issues in Biomedical Ethics
   will show the body as the axe around which the questions and problems in bioethics
and biolaw revolve: the body as an integral part of being an individual or the body as
a thing to be regarded as an object and/ or a commodity. The focus is on biomedical
ethics (as opposed to research bioethics, animal bioethics or environmental bioethics).

3. International Bioethics
   will start out by discussing European policy as regards to bioethics and biolaw. Then it
will attempt to understand the culture and civilization in which biomedical ethics
exist. The characteristics of and the gap between modernism and postmodernism will
be examined as well as the question about establishing the ethical “bottom line."

Class Meetings:
Mondays and Thursdays from 13:50-15:10 p.m.

Consultation:
By appointment (#35 35 55 77), e-mail (knox101@vip.cybercity.dk) or after class.

Field Study:
Lundbeck (Medical Industry). Wednesday, April 21st at 10 a.m.

Guest Speaker:
Professor, Dr. Anne Grete Byskov, Head of Department Laboratory of Reproductive
Biology.
Monday, April 26.
Classroom activity:
There will be brief lectures followed by discussions. The discussions, led by the professor, will take the form of a facilitated dialogue between the professor and the students. There will be reading assignments for each class.

In the course of the semester there will be:
• Three short essays (2-3 pages) to be written.
• One class case study (oral and written).
• A 2 hour written Midterm exam and a 2 hour written Final exam (no books or notes allowed)

In a class like this, active attendance is crucial. Each student is expected to come prepared to discuss the assigned material, the lecture and to complete all assignments. Others cannot benefit from your input if you are not present or prepared. Absence must be explained in written form (letter or email) on your return.

Please note: All written assignments and exams must be completed to pass course.

Course Evaluation:
Participation: 15%
Class Case Study: 15%
Three short essays: 15%
Midterm: 20%
Final term: 35%

Course Literature:

Textbook:
• Principles of Biomedical Ethics, Tom L. Beauchamp & James F. Childress, Oxford University Press, 1994.

Course Binder:


“The Equitable Allocation of Limited Resources” in Ethics Codes in Medicine, Ashgate 1998, pp. 305-311.


“Two Cardiac Arrests, One Medical Team” in Cases in Bioethics, pp. 234-238. Prepared by Bette-Jane Criger, St. Martin’s Press, 1998.


Please note: Always bring the assigned reading as well as this syllabus to class.
**SEMESTER SCHEDULE:**

Thursday, February 5: Biotechnology: New Dimension of and Challenge to Ethics and Law.

**Reading assignment:**

**1. The Two Basic Approaches to Ethics:**

Please note:

Monday, February 9: The Two Basic Approaches to Ethics:

a) Teleological.

**Reading assignment:**
Thursday, February 12: The Two Basic Approaches to Ethics:
   b) Deontological.

**Reading assignment:**

**Four Ethical Principles in Bioethics & Biolaw:**

Monday, February 16: Four Ethical Principles in Bioethics & Biolaw.
   a) Autonomy
   b) Dignity

**Reading assignment:**

Election of two class reps

Please note:
- Introduction to essay number 1 (2-3 pages). Due February 23.
- No class Thursday, February 19.
Monday, February 23: Four Ethical Principles in Bioethics & Biolaw
   c) Integrity
d) Vulnerability

Reading assignment:

Please note:
• Essay 1 due (2-3 pages).

2. Concrete issues in Biomedical Ethics:

Thursday, February 26: Professional-Patient Relationship

Please note:
• Introduction to essay number 2 (2-3 pages). Due Thursday, March 4.

Monday, March 1: Professional-Patient Relationship
Thursday, March 4: Resource Allocation

Please note:
- Essay 2 due (2-3 pages).

Monday, March 8: Euthanasia

**Reading assignment:**

Please note:
- Preparation for Midterm.
- Midterm exams: Tuesday 9 through Friday 12.

**AFTER MIDTERM**

Monday, March 15: Class case study: Euthanasia.
Presentation: Thursday, May 8.
Class is divided into four groups:
Politicians, Doctors, Lawyers and Individuals.

Please note:
- Written group presentation of main arguments due May 6 (2-3 pages).

Thursday, March 18: Organ donation

**Reading assignment:**
(continued...)

Monday, March 22:

We will watch the movie “Gattaca.” Discussion follows after snack.

NB: Class starts at 5:15 p.m. (to 8 p.m.) at DIS 31.

Reading assignment:


Please note:

- This is a double class (i.e. no class on Thursday, March 25).
- Spring break from March 27 to April 18.

Thursday, March 25:

No class due to double class Monday, March 22.

AFTER STUDY TOUR AND SPRING BREAK

Monday, April 19:

Gene Technology

Reading assignment:


Please note:

- Introduction to essay number 3 (2-3 pages). Due Monday, April 26.
Thursday, April 22:  Reproduction Technology

Reading assignment:

Monday, April 26: Guest Speaker: Professor, Dr. Anne Grete Byskov, Head of Department Laboratory of Reproductive Biology.

Reading assignment: To be handed out.

Please note:
- Essay no 3 due.

3. International Bioethics:
Thursday, April 29: Bioethical Legislation in Europe -the EU

Reading assignment:

Monday, May 3: Council of Europe

Reading assignment:

Thursday, May 6: Presentation of class case study: Euthanasia.

Discussion of Findings.

Please note:
- Written presentation of main arguments due (2-3 pages).
Monday, May 10:

Between Modernism and Postmodernism

**Reading assignment:**

Thursday, May 13:

Between Modernism and Postmodernism

**Reading assignment:**
Monday, May 17: The Ethical Bottom Line.

Reading assignment:

Please note:
- Preparation for Final Exam.

Final exams: from Monday 24 to Friday 28.

The best of luck to you