Course description:

Bioethical issues play a critical but largely unrecognized role in national security policy. These issues are also important, though again rarely understood, for a full appreciation of the history and pre-history of bioethics. In this seminar we will explore the intersection of bioethics and national security through the history of human experiments for military purposes, the development of human experimentation policies by national security agencies, the ethics of medical expertise in interrogation, ethical issues in mass casualty medicine, bioterror events and public health measures, and emerging challenges such as the place of breakthroughs in genetics and neuroscience in national security planning.

Use of Blackboard:

The syllabus and some of the required readings are available on Blackboard (https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/). Please check as soon as possible that you have access to Blackboard. Once you have access you should check the site regularly as announcements and/or links to interesting Websites, news stories, etc., may be posted.

Required reading: books—These may be purchased at the Penn Book Center:


Gross M., Bioethics and Armed Conflict: Moral Dilemmas of Medicine and War (MIT 2006).

Moreno J.D., In the Wake of Terror: Medicine and Morality in a Time of Crisis (MIT 2002).

Moreno J.D., Mind Wars: Brain Research and National Defense (Dana 2006).

Required reading on Blackboard:


Secondary reading--some suggested complementary sources at your discretion:


**Videos on the Web:**

Internet Broadcasting Systems, Inc. "Darpa Tech: The Extended Cut"  


Space Cadet, “LSD Testing (British Troops)”  
(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-rWnQphPdQ&amp;mode=related&amp;search=)

**Assignments:**

1. Seminar presentation

Each member of the seminar will be assigned one reading to be presented during the appropriate meeting. The presentation should be both a summary and analysis of the material. Depending on the nature of each presenter’s assignment it may be appropriate to relate the material in any particular presentation to other materials in that or another session.

2. Write-up of presentation

Written summaries of the presentations (in essay *not outline* form) should be handed in at the next class following the presentation. They should be typed, double-spaced and no more than 6 pages long. Citations to the text and other references are optional.

3. Take-home final examination

Final examination questions will be distributed on the last day of class. The answers are due in my Penn e-mailbox no later than December 14, 2007 at 5pm. Further instructions (length, format, etc.) will appear on the exam.

**Grading:**

Participation: 10%  
Seminar presentation: 20%
Write-up of presentation: 30%
Final examination: 40%

Seminar expectations:

A graduate seminar is a professional environment. Therefore *presence* and *preparedness*, along with other professional virtues such as respect for colleagues and seriousness of purpose (but not necessarily seriousness), are expected of all participants in the seminar.