

Explore More · Enhancement

We've organized some further materials by topic, so you can easily follow up on particular issues or events of interest from this unit.

ENHANCEMENT: GENERAL

- Check out this **philosophical analysis** of key [Ethical Issues in Human Enhancement](#) (by Nick Bostrom & Rebecca Roache, in Jesper Ryberg, Thomas S. Peterson, Clark Wolf, eds. *New Waves in Applied Ethics*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2007).
 - Bioethicist-lawyer Dena Davis argues that parental desire to bring a child with disabilities into existence should not be seen as a clash between the principle of respect for autonomy and the principle of beneficence. Rather, she says, this choice should be viewed as a [conflict between parental autonomy and the child's right to an open future](#).
 - Philosophers Mayo and Gunderson argue that one step toward [true respect](#) for persons with disabilities is to believe that these persons sometimes authentically can decide to end their lives.
 - William Peace has lived long-term with quadriplegia. His [troubling personal essay](#) reminds us that persons living with disability may feel pressure to seek comfort care only rather than treatment from others - even health professionals - who cannot fathom a life of value with disability.
 - [GATTACA](#) is a classic, cinematic exploration of **genetic inheritance** versus the human spirit. Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman, and Jude Law star in this sci-fi exploration of one man's quest to overcome social stigma due to his "inferior genes" to reach, quite literally, for the stars.
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COGNITIVE ENHANCEMENT

- **Pills instead of school dollars?** With families unable to afford other interventions and society unwilling to invest in underfunded schools, [a physician suggests](#) that ADHD medications for normal children may be a way to help them compete and get ahead (Alan Schwarz, "Attention Deficit Disorder or Not, Pills Help in Schools." *New York Times*. 2012 October 9).

- Check out [this take](#) on “**cosmetic neurology**”—cognitive and affective enhancement—by a researcher at the US's National Institutes of Health (NIH).
 - **Does cognitive enhancement sound like a good idea?** Watch the movie [Limitless](#) with Bradley Cooper as Hollywood explores the possible unexpected consequences of pharmacologically-enhanced mental powers.
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CHIMERAS

- **Half human, half animal.** Take a look at [this very philosophical, but very good, article](#) on ethics and chimeras in *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Streiffer, Robert, "Human/Non-Human Chimeras", Spring 2011, Edward N. Zalta (ed.)).
 - Check out [this fun slide show](#) representing current medical and scientific **experiments** with human/non-human chimeras from the Discovery Channel.
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ENHANCEMENT & THE MILITARY

- Do we feel differently about enhancement or even blurring the human-technology interface depending on the **purpose** of the modifications? Brian Wang [describes the efforts of DARPA](#) (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) to make a Metabolically Dominant Soldier ("\$3 Billion Super Soldier Program," Next Big Future.com 2008 July 16.).
- You can also always check out the [X-Men films](#), based on the Marvel Comics group of **superhero mutants**. Ethics and enhancement shows up in surprising places!