

CROSSROADS IN BIOETHICS

INTRODUCTION TO FALL ONLINE BIOETHICS

Welcome to the 3995 course in Bio-Ethics and Medical Ethics -spring 2022. This course is different than many other courses at Columbia College. You will not need to memorize any materials but you will need to think creatively.

The required textbook is the 7th edition of Science-Based Bioethics by Loike and Fischbach (2022) which should be available in a few weeks (End of January- because of the pandemic) from LuLu.com or Amazon.com. Do not buy an older version since it is outdated. Until it is published, I will have the reading chapters posted on Canvas until the book is published.

Each week you will need to post your opinions on the discussion board, in response to specific questions. Here are some guidelines.

Before posting your response to a discussion board question, check if any other student has posted a similar response.

Stay on topic – Don't post irrelevant links, comments, thoughts, or pictures. Link any references on your post.

Don't type in ALL CAPS! If you do, it will look like you're yelling at your classmates and professor.

Don't write anything that sounds angry or sarcastic, even as a joke, because without hearing your tone of voice, your peers might not realize you're joking.

Always remember to say "Please" and "Thank you" when soliciting help from your classmates.

Respect the opinions of your classmates. If you feel the need to disagree, do so respectfully, and acknowledge the valid points in your classmate's argument. Acknowledge that others are entitled to have their own perspective on the issue.

If you reply to a post from a classmate, make sure your response is accurate!

If you ask a question and many people respond, summarize all answers and post that summary to benefit your whole class.

Be brief. If you write a long dissertation in response to a simple question, it's unlikely that anyone will spend the time to read through it all. Keep the posts to under 200 words.

Don't badmouth others or call them stupid. You may disagree with their ideas, but don't mock the person.

If you refer to something your classmate said earlier in the discussion, quote just a few key lines from their post so that others won't have to go back and figure out which post you're referring to.

Check the most recent comments before you reply to an older comment since the issue might have already been resolved or opinions may have changed.

Be forgiving. If your classmate makes a mistake, don't badger him or her for it. Just let it go – it happens to the best of us.

Run a spelling and grammar check before posting anything to the discussion board. It only takes a minute and can make the difference between sounding like a fool and sounding knowledgeable.

Course Assignments

1. Due before the first class of the semester- Submit a brief summary of your own personal strategy how to deal with biomedical challenges. No more than 200 words. Please email them to me at jd15@cumc.columbia.edu
2. Posting on discussion board each week
3. Midterm - writing an op-ed or creating a video
4. Final paper - Select a peer-reviewed scientific or medical paper about a new biotechnology or medical procedure. In five pages (submitted in **Word FORMAT** only) -
 - a. Summarize the technology and critique it
 - b. Identify the bioethical challenges emerging from this technology
 - c. Creatively resolve those issues in a concrete fashion- this is the most important part of the paper
6. End of semester summary of how your strategies to resolve biomedical issues have changes - if at all

LECTURE	DATE	TOPIC	LECTURER	READINGS IN TEXTBOOK
1	JAN 17	INTRODUCTION	DR. LOIKE	CHAPTERS 1-3
2	JAN 24	COVID- A GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENTAL POLICY	DR. LOIKE	SELECTED READINGS POSTED IN CANVAS
3	JAN 31	Gamete Donation	Ruth Fischbach	SELECTED READINGS POSTED IN CANVAS
4	FEB 7	GENE EDITING	DR. LOIKE	CHAPTER 7
5	FEB 14	Aging Brain	Gerald Fischbach	FIND RECENT ARTICLES ON THE WEB
6	FEB 21	US POLICY ON ETHICS	Ross Frommer	TO BE GIVEN
7	FEB 28	SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY	DR. LOIKE	CHAPTERS 14
8	MAR 7	Xenotransplantation	Brendan Parent NYU	TO BE GIVEN
Midterm	March 10	Op ed piece		
9	MAR 21		Jennifer Miller	CHAPTER 13
10	MAR 28	Big time genetics	Marya Pollack	CHAPTERS 9 and 10

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11	APR 4	Are there experiments that should not be done?	Dr. Robert Pollack	TO BE GIVEN
12	APR11	Medical tourism	DR. LOIKE	
13	APR 18	LEGAL ISSUES IN BIOETHICS	MR. ALAN MORRISON ESQ	TO BE GIVEN
14	APR 25	Longevity and immortality	DR. LOIKE	TO BE GIVEN
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