

BIOL5131
Ethical, Social, and Political Dimensions
2021 Spring

Instructor:

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Hours: by appointment
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Class Meetings: 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM R

Classroom: Zoom online (access via Blackboard) until further notice

Text: There is no textbook for this class. Handouts on selected topics (e.g. education materials provided by the NIH/Office of Research Integrity and articles published in Nature, Science or other journals) will be distributed when appropriate.

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes: The course addresses ethical, social, and political issues in biomedical research. The topics include responsible conduct of research (e.g. research misconduct definition and reported cases, mentorship, authorship and peer review) and gray areas entailed by advanced genetic information (e.g. legal and social issues arising from genetic information related to diseases and personal traits; eugenics), stem cell research (e.g. types, sources and application of stem cells; therapeutic vs. reproductive cloning; public perception and significance of education), research involving animals or human subjects (e.g. institutional, national, international regulations and policies such as Belmont Report and Declaration of Helsinki; research on vulnerable individuals), and performance enhancing drugs (e.g. Ritalin and steroids). For individual topics, students are expected to learn background information and are guided for open discussions on pros and cons using case reports and studies. Students are expected not only to learn the basics and issues of each topic but also to develop logical, analytical and critical thinking and to broaden their viewpoints.

Grading:

Attendance/participation:	50% of the grade
Presentation:	20%
Essays:	30% (three essays, each essay - 10% of the grade)

Presentation is on a case report relevant to the course's scope (topics listed in the next page) and duration should be ~10 min. Presenters are expected to lead discussion after presentation. Topics and contents triggering active discussion are highly preferable.

Three essays are due. Each essay on your thoughts/feedbacks on the topics listed in the next page should be about **one page with 1 inch margins, single spaced, and font Arial 11**, and should be submitted electronically via email. **Each essay is due by Feb 18, Mar 25, and Apr 29.**

Attendance of the **entire class** duration will only be counted into grade (i.e. coming late or leaving early would not have attendance grade). If you must arrive late, leave early, or exit the classroom during class time for emergency, please do so quietly and with as little disruption as possible.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59

Classroom Etiquette: Cell phones or other text messaging devices should be off. Should you need to leave them on, please put them on a vibrate or silent mode. You are welcome to use a laptop or iPad to take notes but not for other purposes including surfing, emailing and watching movies or YouTubes.

Academic Integrity. Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarship free from fraud and deception. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, possessing unauthorized copies of examinations, submitting the work of others claimed as one's own, submitting work used for other classes (without the knowledge of the instructor) or tampering with the work of other students. All work submitted for this class must be original and not the result of discussions with others. Instances of academic dishonesty threaten the atmosphere of trust and free exchange of ideas. Such instances will result in the offending student receiving a failing grade for work discovered to be fraudulent and for egregious cases, the student may be dismissed from the class with a failing grade.

Accessibility: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Schedule:

Class	Date	Topic
1	Jan 21	Introduction and overview, FAS
2	Jan 28	FAS – an example case to lay out the approach for bioethics discussion
3	Feb 4	Legal issues
4	Feb 11	Stem cell & genetic engineering issues
5	Feb 18	Stem cell & genetic engineering issues/performance enhancement 1st essay due
6	Feb 25	Research involving human subjects
7	Mar 4	Authorship and peer review
8	Mar 11	Research Integrity
9	Mar 25	Research Integrity 2nd essay due
10	Apr 1	Case presentations
11	Apr 8	Case presentations
12	Apr 15	Case presentations
13	Apr 22	Case presentations
14	Apr 29	Case presentations 3rd essay due
15	May 6	Case presentations

***Please email me the presentation ppt file by the night before the scheduled presentation day.**