

**BIOL6131 and 5131**  
**Ethical, Social, and Political Dimensions**  
**2024 Spring**

**Instructor:**

**Kyung-An Han, Ph. D.**

Office: 3.152 Biosciences Building

Hours: by appointment

email: [khan@utep.edu](mailto:khan@utep.edu)

**Class Meetings:** 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM R

**Classroom:** UGLC 210

**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/feedback 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 via email. Each essay is due by [Feb 15](#), [Mar 21](#), and [Apr 25](#).

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=60-79, 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](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office (Rm 106) in the Union East. For additional information, please visit [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

**Schedule:** This is a temporary schedule thus subject to change. Please check the blackboard for the updated.

Class	Date	Topic
1	Jan 18	Introduction FAS: an example case to lay out the approach for bioethics discussion
2	Jan 25	FAS discussion
3	Feb 1	Legal issues
4	Feb 8	Research involving human subjects (Dr. Paul Sabandal)
5	Feb 15	Legal issues – GxE 1 <sup>st</sup> essay due
6	Feb 22	Stem cell & genetic engineering
7	Feb 29	Authorship and peer review
8	Mar 7	Research integrity
9	Mar 21	Research integrity 2 <sup>nd</sup> essay due
10	Mar 28	Group 1 case presentation/class discussion; Group 2 case presentation
11	Apr 4	Group 2 case discussion; Group 3 case presentation/discussion
12	Apr 11	Groups 4 case presentation & discussion; Group 5 presentation
13	Apr 18	Group 5 discussion; Group 6 case presentation & discussion
14	Apr 25	Group 7 case presentation & discussion 3 <sup>rd</sup> essay due
15	May 2	(Research involving animals, mentor-mentee relationship, conflict of interest, issues/performance enhancement, designer babies)

- Group 1 –
- Group 2 –
- Group 3 –
- Group 4 –
- Group 5 –
- Group 6 –
- Group 7 -

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