Biomedical Ethics
Spring 2009
Professor Larry May
Teaching Assistants: Jeff Brown and Ben Floyd-Clapman

Syllabus


Topics and Reading Assignments:

January 12 – first class – introduction to course

I. Values and Virtues
   A. Autonomy, Confidentiality, and Informed Consent
   B. Justice Freedom, and Equality
      Fri., 2-6: “Bone Marrow Transplants for Advanced Breast Cancer…” 237-244.
      Mon. 2-9: “Last Chance Therapies and Managed Care…” 261-272.
      Wed., 2-11: First Take Home Examination Distributed
      Fri., 2-13: No Class – Work on Exam at Home
      Mon., 2-16: First Take Home Examination Due at Beginning of Class

II. End of Life Decisions
   A. Refusal of Treatment and Choosing for Others
      Wed., 2-18: film
      Fri., 2-20: Dax’s Case, 379-385.
B. Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide  
Mon., 3-23: "Is There a Duty to Die?" 511-520.  
Wed., 3-25: Second Take Home Examination Distributed.  
Fri., 3-27: No Class – Work on Exam at Home  
Mon., 3-30: Second Take Home Examination Due at Beginning of Class

III. Ethical Issues in Genetics and Research  
A. Screening, Cloning, and Genetic Choices  
Mon., 3-30: "Prenatal Diagnosis and Selective Abortion..." 675-685.  
Fri., 4-3: "Reproductive Freedom and Prevention...of Harm," 588-594.  
Fri., 4-10: "Reproductive Cloning: Another Look," 651-661.  
B. Genetic Technologies and Medical Research  
Mon. 4-13: "Genetic Interventions and the Ethics of Enhancement..." 879-889.  
Fri., 4-17: "The Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital Case," 740-749.  
Mon., 4-20: "Racism and Research..." 753-763.  
Fri., 4-24: "Research on Children & the Scope of Responsible Parenthood" 815-829.  
Fri., 4-24: Final Take Home Examination Distributed  
Fri., 5-1: 5:00 pm Final Examinations Due in Philosophy Department, Wilson 208.

Course Procedures:  
Students are expected to come to each class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Attendance will be taken. Students will receive 5 free absences and then points will be deducted from final scores for additional absences. Grades will be based on three take home examinations, with slightly more credit given for later than earlier exams. No late examinations will be accepted, and no incompletes will be given.  
On most Fridays, the class will be divided into two sections and meet in additional rooms. More information on which section you should go to will be provided during the first week of classes.  
Professor May will hold office hours on Mondays and Wednesday from 11:00-12:00, and by appointment (935-6614 or larrymay@artsci.wustl.edu). His office is Wilson 206. The two teaching assistants will also hold office hours. They can be reached respectively at: Jeff Brown -jmbrown@artsci.wustl.edu, and Ben Floyd-Clapman – bfloydcl@artsci.wustl.edu.