

Bioethics Courses
Fall 2017

Required Courses

BIE 703: Bioethics Theory

A study of the main theoretical approaches to contemporary bioethics. Each approach will be examined critically and students will explore how each approach informs analysis of contemporary issues in bioethics.

Ana Iltis

3 credits

Monday, 6:00-8:30 pm

Worrell Professional Center, Rm 1306 (Reynolda)

BIE 705: Clinical Ethics

This course will focus on “ethics at the bedside” and will make extensive use of case studies. The course will begin with sessions on the role of ethics in health care, the theoretical tools of bioethics, and the relationships among law, culture, and clinical ethics. The course will then review the moral foundations of therapeutic relationships, and it will conclude with examination of moral issues encountered in health care at the beginning and at the end of life. Students will be required to take any 2 of the following 3 courses: Clinical Ethics, Biomedical Research Ethics, and Public Policy, Medicine, and Justice.

John Moskop

3 credits

Wednesday, 6:00-8:30pm

525@Vine, Rm. 3131 (Downtown)

BIE 706/707: Bioethics Seminar

A seminar on bioethics topics of interest featuring WFU and invited external faculty, with additional student presentations. Participants will also engage presenters and scholarly literature on a variety of aspects of bioethics, including, but not limited to, the scholarly and professional practice of bioethics, the role of empirical scholarship in bioethics and related disciplines, the relationship of bioethics to advocacy and policy, and bioethics communication and mediation.

Nancy King

3 credits

Thursday, 5:00-7:30pm

525@Vine, Rm. 3131(Downtown)

BIE 791/792: Thesis Research (1-6)

Research directed toward fulfilling the thesis requirement. May be undertaken at any time, but full-time students are encouraged to begin thesis planning in the spring and complete the thesis during the summer term or the fall semester following completion of all course work.

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Bioethics Electives Courses

BIE 725: Health Law and Policy

This course examines the public policy and legal dimensions of the financing and regulation of health care delivery. Its focus is on how medical institutions (hospitals, insurers, HMOs) are structured and regulated, and how these institutions relate to their physicians and patients. Ongoing debate over health care reform is a main focus. The dominant theme is how law shapes and responds to the rapid economic and structural changes that are taking place in the health care sector. This course is cross listed as LAW 525.

Mark Hall

3 credits

Monday & Wednesday, 4:00-5:30pm

Worrell Professional Center, Rm. 1310 (Reynolda)

BIE 727: Performable Case Studies in Bioethics

Students will develop a bioethics case study and present it as a dramatic reading with audience discussion at semester's end. From an initial prompt (e.g. subject matter, situation, incident) and associated readings, the work will be implemented in three phases of approximately equal length: 1) discussion and analysis of the prompt and readings; 2) student presentations of additional research, either individually or in teams, and concomitant discussion and analysis, from ethical, social, legal, and policy perspectives; and 3) script (case) development during in-class writing sessions. The overarching goal is to exploit the unique ability of dramatic art to engage complex, multifaceted issues in ways that are neither nebulous nor propagandistic, and to highlight the relationship between process, close analysis, art and scholarship in bioethics.

Richard Robeson

3 credits

Tuesday, 5:00-7:30pm

525@Vine, Rm. 3131 (Downtown)

BIE 731: Bioethics at Work: The IRB

This course provides students with the opportunity to experience and understand human research oversight by attending Institutional Review Board (IRB) meetings, reviewing submitted protocols, and considering the ethical issues arising therein. Students assigned to a single IRB for a single semester will receive one credit. They will attend monthly meetings, meet periodically with course faculty and staff, and meet with IRB senior staff at the beginning and end of the semester. Students are also required to maintain and submit a journal of commentary on meetings and protocols and the ethical issues arising therein, and an end-of-semester paper. Initial enrollment will be in the spring semester, concurrent with enrollment in BIE 702: Biomedical Research Ethics. Additional credits may be earned by students who attend the meetings of more than one IRB or who continue attendance during the summer terms and/or in the fall semester. Enrollment in BIE 702: Biomedical Research Ethics is required.

Nancy King/Ana Iltis (with Diane Behar)

1-2 credits

BIE 794: Bioethics and Law

This course involves applying principles of bioethics in scientific and medical scenarios from the perspective of the legal system to see how the bioethics principles affect decision-making and strategy in the litigation and legislative processes. This course is interactive in nature, and involves the use of simulation and role-playing to help understand and address emerging bioethics issues in areas including informed consent, genetic testing, biomedical experimentation, and end of life decisions. This course is cross-listed as Law 594.

Christine Coughlin

2 credits

Monday & Wednesdays, 11:00-11:50am

Worrell Professional Center, Rm. 1108 (Reynolda)

BIE 721/722: Research/Independent Study (1-3)

Students may work with a faculty member on a project of mutual interest. May be repeated for credit.