

Bioethics Courses
Spring 2017
Required Courses

BIE 702: Biomedical Research Ethics

A historical and conceptual survey of ethics and policy issues in biomedical research. Emphasis will be placed on research involving human subjects; translational research, including oversight of novel biotechnologies; and the ethical implications of research design and funding decisions. Topics will include the regulatory structure of research and proposals for reform; genomics and biospecimen research; and the relationship between medical research and medical treatment. (Students are required to take any 2 of the following 3 courses: Clinical Ethics, Biomedical Research Ethics, and Public Policy, Medicine, and Justice.)

Ana Iltis

3 credits

Monday, 6:00-8:30pm

Rm. A307; Tribble Hall, Reynolda Campus

BIE 704: Public Policy, Medicine & Justice

Beginning with an examination of major philosophical theories of justice, this course uses historical and contemporary examples and international comparisons to examine the organization of medicine and biomedical science in the United States today. The relationships between scientific and medical institutions and the implementation of public policies will be critically analyzed in light of the requirements of the principle of justice. Topics include the regulation of medical practice; continuing developments in health care reform; access to health care and systems of resource allocation in a variety of settings and for a variety of population groups (e.g., women, children, the elderly, minorities, and the disabled); and the balance between the public good and market forces. Students are required to take any 2 of the following three courses: Clinical Ethics, Biomedical Research Ethics, and Public Policy, Medicine, and Justice.

Nancy King

3 credits

Tuesday, 4:00-6:30pm

Rm. 3131; 525@Vine/Downtown

BIE 792: Thesis Research (1-6) - Various

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.

Bioethics Electives Courses

BIE 711: Current Topics in Clinical and Biomedical Research Ethics

An in-depth critical examination of selected topics of current interest in clinical and research ethics. Topics will be selected by students from a list identified by faculty. Examples include current controversies surrounding the following pertinent topics: gene editing, regenerative medicine, assisted reproduction, genetic enhancement, physician-assisted death, death by neurological criteria, living organ donation, and research without consent. One component of the course will be devoted to creation of brief radio podcasts (i.e., bioethics radio) addressing topics examined by the class.

Nancy King and Richard Robeson

3 credits

Wednesday, 5:00-7:30pm

Rm. 3131; 525@Vine/Downtown

BIE 713: Law, Medicine and Ethics

An examination of the relationships between law and medicine, including the legal regulation of medical practice, concepts of medical malpractice, medical neglect, informed consent and legal competence, confidentiality and privacy, and definitions of death. The ethical implications of the intersection of law and medicine will be critically analyzed.

Mark Hall

3 credits

Tuesday/Thursday, 2:30-3:50pm

Rm. 1102; Worrell Professional Center (Reynolda Campus)

BIE 737: Bioethics and Genetics

An exploration of some of the ethical issues generated by the acquisition and application of knowledge about the human genome. Topics include: gene therapy, confidentiality, gene therapy, genetic testing of minors, genetic testing of adults, and ownership of genetic information.

Terence J. Connell

3 credits

Thursday, 5:00-7:30pm

Rm 3131; 525@Vine/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, Diane Behar

1-2 credits

BIE 733: Bioethics at Work: The Clinical Context

This course provides students with the opportunity to experience and understand clinical ethics activities in the academic medical center setting, through attendance at Clinical Ethics Committee and Subcommittee meetings and other ethics-related events. Students will attend meetings of the WFUBMC Clinical Ethics Committee, the Consultation, Policy, and Organizational Ethics Subcommittees, and educational sessions organized by the Education Subcommittee. Monthly 2-hour meetings with faculty will explore the application of bioethics theory to cases, topics, and issues encountered in clinical settings. Students may also be able to attend ethics consultations by arrangement.

Prerequisite: BIE 705: Clinical Ethics.

John Moskop

1 credit

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

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

Other Electives to Consider

COM 670: COMMUNICATION ETHICS AND BIOETHICS: AN INTERFACE

This course explores: 1) how the phenomena of the call of conscience, acknowledgment, and our metaphysical desire for perfection inform the ontological status of communication ethics; 2) how communication ethics is a necessary concern for bioethics scholars, policymakers, researchers, and others interested in assessing the ongoing debate over the benefits and burdens of biotechnology; and 3) how biotechnology affects our collective understanding of human dignity. *Undergraduate and graduate students eligible to take this course.*

3 credits

Michael Hyde

Thursday, 5:00-7:30 pm

Rm. 118; Carswell Hall (Reynolda Campus)