

Medical Ethics of Reproductive Technologies

BIOL 490 Seminar, Section 7

Fall, 2012

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Additional Course Information: Available off of Desire to Learn (D2L)

CLASS MEETINGS: TNR 460, W 1:00-1:50 p.m.

Prerequisites: Biol 101, 130, or 160.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar course will broadly examine ethical, legal, and social implications of recent advances in reproductive technology. The course will be centered around student-led discussions on student-selected topics. Class attendance and participation is required.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To use your knowledge of biology and science to critically examine current issues in human reproductive medicine.
2. To begin to understand the complex ethical, legal, and social issues surrounding recent advances in reproductive technology.
3. To explore the nature of your own beliefs about issues in reproductive medicine.
4. To develop critical thinking, writing, and oral communication skills.

POINT BREAKDOWN:

GRADE SCALE (out of 100% of Total):

Presentation	70 pts	A ≥ 93-100	C = 73-76
Discussion	30 pts	A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
Supporting Materials	25 pts	B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
<u>Professionalism</u>	<u>100 pts</u>	B = 83-86	D = 60-66
TOTAL	225 pts	B- = 80-82	F < 60.0
		C+ = 77-79	

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic dishonesty in any form will result in disciplinary action in accordance with UW System Administrative Code.

See <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights/RRBOOKLET8-2005-06.pdf> (pages 4-9) for more information.

PROFESSIONALISM:

Attendance: Class attendance is a given and you are expected to arrive on time and ready to learn. If you are not here, you cannot participate in the discussions and tardiness or absences WILL reveal themselves in your grade. Assignments are due when they are due. In other words, presentations must be done on the assigned dates. If you have an unexcused absence, you will NOT be allowed to make up missed work. Schedule yourself accordingly.

Participation: It is my expectation that you will arrive on time, prepared, and ready to be engaged and actively participate in the classroom experience.

Classroom Behavior: I expect nothing short of complete mutual respect and courtesy. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off while class is in session.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS:

Together with a partner (or partners), you will be required to lead a discussion on an ethical issue in reproductive medicine. As a group, we will choose discussion topics during the first weeks of class. Discussion leaders will be expected to gather outside materials and provide relevant background information for your fellow classmates. It may be necessary to use online index searches and inter-

library loan to get the sources you need so plan ahead. (If you are unfamiliar with the use of online indexes, see a librarian or the instructor for assistance.) Individual presenters will also be required to turn in their notes and a bibliography of sources on the day of their presentation/discussion. These materials will factor in as part of your grade. Presentations will be critiqued by your classmates as well as the instructor and will be graded on content, format, and overall knowledge of the subject matter. To promote discussion and understanding of the topics being presented, participation by the “audience” is necessary. Therefore, when you are not leading the discussion, you will be evaluated on your level of participation. Audience members are expected to come prepared with questions for the presenting group.

Although it is often tempting to analyze and present only two sides to an issue, you are encouraged to think of other ways in which to approach the problem. For example, are there sides to the issue that have not been considered? Is there a gray area or are things as clear-cut as some suggest? Each group will decide how to divide the topic to best represent all sides of the issue. It is expected that all members of the group will contribute equally to researching the topic and to leading the discussion. Due to the complexity of the topics, it is likely (and perhaps recommended) that you will not argue your own position. A handout addressing the specific guidelines and expectations for the presentations will follow.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sept 5	Course Introduction
2	Sept 12	What is ethics?
3	Sept 19	Basic Reproductive Biology
4	Sept 26	Early Human Development
5	Oct 3	Early Human Development
6	Oct 10	Topic Introductions
7	Oct 17	Topic Introductions
8	Oct 24	Research Day
9	Oct 31	Group 1

10	Nov 7	Group 2
11	Nov 14	Group 3
12	Nov 21	Group 4
13	Nov 28	Group 5
14	Dec 5	Group 6
15	Dec 12	Course Wrap-Up