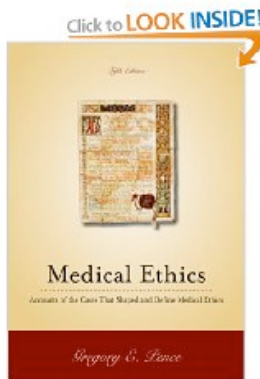
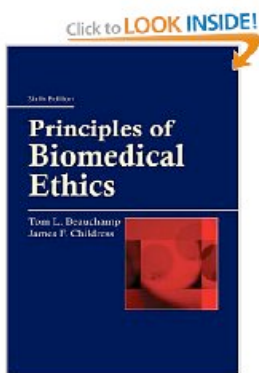


Syllabus for STS 2400-900 Fall 2009
Science, Technology, and Society: Biomedical Ethics

Instructor Contact Information: Professor Trina Queen
Email: tqueen@spsu.edu (preferred contact method)
Office Room: J-319 (office hours Saturdays 12:00 - 1:00 PM)
Office Phone: 678-915-7442 **MESSAGES ONLY**
Web CT Address: <http://spsu8.view.usg.edu/>
Prerequisites: English 1101

Required Course Materials:

Textbooks:



Principles of Biomedical Ethics - Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, Oxford University Press, USA, 6th edition (May 23, 2008)

Medical Ethics: Accounts of the Cases That Shaped and Define Medical Ethics - Gregory Pence, McGraw-Hill; 5th edition (July 11, 2007)

Electronic Communication: Access to the internet and email on a regular basis preferably daily but **at least three times per week**. Since this is an internet course, assignments and all correspondence will be conducted through Georgia VIEW Vista 8 and email. Access to word processing software will be necessary to complete, post, and email class assignments.

Weekly Topics and Assigned Readings

STS 2400 Science, Technology, and Society: Biomedical Ethics

Lecture notes do not replace or even summarize the readings, only complement them. You are still responsible for reading the chapters.

Week	Topic	Assigned Reading
1	Introduction and History of Bioethics	Notes, Pence Ch. 11 & 13
2	Morality and Theory Introduction	Notes, B&C Ch. 1, Pence Ch. 8
3	Character and Status	Notes, B&C Ch. 2 & 3
4	Ethical Theories	Notes, B&C Ch. 9
5	Autonomy/Right-to-Die Case Studies	Notes, B&C Ch. 4, Pence Ch. 1
6	Nonmaleficence/Coma Case Studies	Notes, B&C Ch. 5, Pence Ch. 2
7	Beneficence/Physician-Assisted Dying and Oregon's Laws	Notes, B&C Ch. 6, Pence Ch. 3
8	Justice/Abortion Case Studies	Notes, B&C Ch. 7, Pence Ch. 4
9	Assisted Reproduction, Embryonic Stem Cells and Cloning Case Studies	Notes, Pence Ch. 5, 6 & 7
10	Professionalism/Disability and Infants	Notes, B&C Ch. 8, Pence Ch. 9
11	Research Case Studies	Notes, Pence Ch. 11 & 12
12	Moral Justification and Infant Research	Notes, B&C Ch. 10, Pence Ch. 14
13	Involuntary Psychiatric Commitment and Genetics Case Studies	Notes, Pence Ch. 15 & 16
14	Preventing AIDS Spread and Reforming Medicare Case Studies	Notes, Pence Ch. 17 & 18
15	Complete, post and review group projects	

Course Description:

STS 2400 is an interdisciplinary course designed to help students realize the impact we each have individually and collectively on a local and global scale through science, technology, and society. The goal is to see how decisions, educational, professional, social, and personal, affect the complex social, ethical, and moral choices of a modern technologically and scientifically advancing world. Through discussions and assignments in bioethics history, morality, ethics, ethical theory, professionalism, and case studies, this course is designed to help students evaluate all sides of biomedical ethical dilemmas and to be able to express and defend their own position in these and other issues.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate competing views and the information supporting them.
2. Formulate their own opinions on complex issues and to communicate their views clearly in both written and oral formats, and support their position with relevant evidence.
3. Recognize the ways in which science and technology have been shaped by, and have helped to shape, society and culture.
4. Apply STS concepts to the scientific disciplines and technologies relevant to their majors.
5. Participate effectively in multidisciplinary groups.

Students with disabilities:

It shall be the policy of Southern Polytechnic State University to seek to make all of its programs and facilities available to all qualified students, including students with a handicap. In an effort to fully comply with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who because of a handicap encounters any barrier to his/her full utilization of Southern Polytechnic programs or facilities is encouraged to contact the affirmative action officer or the counselor for disabled students for assistance. The university will, insofar as possible, assist the student in seeking solutions to handicap barriers.

Any students who feel they need accommodations for this course are encouraged to contact 687-915-7244 and ask for the counselor working with qualified students to assist in accommodating those needs.

Weather Policy:

Review the official policy in the campus handbook. As this is an internet course, the weather will rarely cause any lengthy interruptions. Assignments will be due as assigned unless otherwise posted on Georgia VIEW Vista 8 or through email. If you feel you have a particular situation that merits discussion, contact me as soon as possible.

Campus Closures:

In the event of an extended campus-wide closure lasting more than a day or two (for example, swine flu outbreak), this course will not need to change its method of instruction to continue classes since it is an internet course. Class will continue as normal. If any student has a personal situation, contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Disruptive Behavior and Academic Dishonesty:

A faculty member reserves the right to remove any student from his or her course if the student's behavior is of a disruptive nature or if there is evidence of academic dishonesty. In instances of disruptive behavior and/or academic dishonesty, the faculty member will discuss the circumstances with the student(s) before taking final action. In the event the student cannot be reached, he or she will be given the grade of "Incomplete" until such time as he or she can be reached. The student shall have the right of appeal of the faculty member's decision

- first to the faculty member's Department Chair
- then to the appropriate school dean,
- and, if necessary, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Removal from a course under this provision will result in a grade of "F". A grade of "F" issued under these circumstances shall not be superseded by a voluntary withdrawal, and will be included in the student's cumulative grade point average calculated for graduation purposes.

Grading:

I will make every effort to return your papers within one to two weeks. Each written assignment will have a grading sheet attached with the grade you received and possibly relative comments. Although this is not an English class, grammar and spelling are important. Too many mistakes will cost you. Proofread your work carefully and never rely completely on computer programs to perform that task for you. If you have questions about your grades, do not wait until the end of the term to ask. I will not be keeping the individual grading sheets for your written assignments only the grade you receive. Bring any questions you have to my attention as soon as possible.

Points may be earned through a variety of ways:

1. **Participation** – Students are required to participate in weekly online discussions regarding the week's reading assignments. You may miss one week without penalty after which the penalty of one letter grade per week missed will be assessed. (Students who are absent because of participation in approved University activities such as field trips, athletic events, etc., will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such absences will be granted by the instructor only if advance notice in writing is given to the instructor.)

You are expected to post at least twice during each week in response to statements or questions posed by me. After the first week, students will be named as first responders to get the weekly discussions started. You should post once by midnight on Wednesday and then again by midnight on Saturday. One post must be in response to something another student has posted. All posts must be academic in nature and never personal attacks directed to an individual, their profession, their beliefs, their religion, etc.

Keep in mind it is this discussion element that takes the place of classroom interaction in an online environment. You can get no more out of it than you are willing to put into it. Although the information will build on each week as we progress, the previous week's discussion will not normally continue past that week.

Participation is 50% of your combined grade.

2. **Written assignments** - You will be required to submit written assignments during most weeks especially when case studies are covered. For these assignments (unless instructed otherwise), you are required to present the issues on the **pro side with supporting evidence**, the issues on the **con side with supporting evidence**, and then **defending your own position** on the issues. Each written assignment is worth 10 points. Written assignments are due no later than midnight on Sunday night of the week they are assigned. Late papers will not be accepted for grading purposes. These assignments should be submitted via Georgia VIEW Vista 8 or email.

This is 25% of your combined grade.

3. **Group project** - This is an interdisciplinary project requiring each member to be from a different field of study or major program. Each group will consist of three to four students. The final project must be presented in some electronic form that can be viewed by all students for peer review. Instructions for this assignment are posted below.

This is 25% of your combined grade.

4. **Extra Credit** - This is limited to 10% of the total points available throughout the semester. Extra credit may be earned in one or more of the following ways (instructions for each opportunity must be followed for the credit to be awarded):

Building the Links Page for Bioethics/Biomedical ethics course

Do-It-Yourself Field Trip related to this course

Ethical movie review

There may be one or two other **voluntary** opportunities to be announced during the semester.

Written Assignment Instructions:

Ethical issues easily have two or more sides, many representing professionals, clients/patients, their families, and sometimes the law or court representatives. For these assignments (unless instructed otherwise), you are required to present the issues on the pro/for side with supporting evidence, the issues on the con/against side with supporting evidence, and then defending your own position on the issues. Each written assignment is worth 10 points. Written assignments are due no later than midnight on Sunday night at the end of the week they are assigned. Late papers will not be accepted for grading purposes. These assignments should be submitted via Georgia VIEW Vista 8 or email.

Final Group Project Instructions:

This is an interdisciplinary project requiring each member to be from a different field of study or major program. Each group will consist of three to four students. The final project must be presented in some electronic form that can be viewed by all students for peer review.

The project will be broken down into a few steps with the first three steps being individual and required of each member of the team.

1. At the end of week two, the designated team member is required to submit a list of his/her team members. Any student not on a team at this point will be placed on a team. You should all be able to work this out for yourselves. You are each responsible for making sure I have this information from your team leader. I suggest an email to me with all members names included as a recipient so we all know we received the same information.
2. By the end of week four, each student is required to submit a copy of the professional ethics to which their field of intended occupation is held accountable. This submission must have a valid source included such as book title, magazine, working link, etc. Either way, I should be able to get back to your

information.

3. No later than the end of week eight, each student must submit a new copy of their professional ethics annotated with personal input as to which ethics are specific only to their field and cannot be adapted to general professional ethics across any field along with the reasons why.
4. The group is responsible for taking the professional ethics from each member with the input of step three and together rewriting **one** set of professional ethics that can be used by **any profession**. You must go beyond the no lying, no stealing, be nice to your customers philosophy. You may incorporate the professional ethics of other professions not included in your group to aid you in creating one universal set of professional ethics.
5. The final product will be in the form of a presentation. Consider you are giving this presentation to your bosses and your peers in an introductory training environment designed to improve relations between employees and customers yet teaching everyone to be accountable and to hold each other accountable. Your group must decide on the choice of medium to present the final project. It could be word, power point, videotaping, etc. Use your imagination. Use color, use sound, use whatever seems appropriate to keep the attention of your audience and get your message out. **These assignments should be submitted via Georgia VIEW Vista 8 or email but keep in mind they must be accessible to ALL students as well as to me. You may provide a working link to get to your presentation as long as we can all get to it and review the entire project.**
6. Lastly, you must complete the group review sheets (yes you will have to grade yourselves and your group members) and submit them at the same time you submit the final project. You must also view the other projects and complete the review sheets for each group.
7. Final projects and group review sheets must be submitted by midnight on Thursday of week 15. Review sheets for the other groups are due by midnight of the following Tuesday.

Extra Credit Instructions:

1. Building the Links Page

You may earn extra credit by contributing links to help build the links page for your course. A qualified, substantive, and original contribution will earn 1% toward your final grade, up to the extra credit cap. (Subsequent submissions will be gladly accepted and posted, but you will not receive additional extra credit.)

Here are the rules:

(1) It must be a link not already present in the list of assigned readings on the course schedule and not previously posted to the appropriate discussion topic in Georgia VIEW Vista 8 this semester.

(2) You must provide the name of the site, the name of the specific page, and an accurate and functioning http address. Where the page you are submitting is a specific part of a larger site, you must provide the address for the internal page or clear directions for how to navigate to the correct internal page.

(3) You must provide a sentence or two of annotation: what is the site and how can the members of this class use it--what will we find there? Your commentary must be as clear and specific as possible.

(4) All submissions must be posted to the "Web Links" topic through Georgia VIEW Vista 8 for your course **and emailed to me**--this is the only way to turn in a link for credit.

(5) All submissions must be posted by midnight no later than seven days before the last day of this term.

2. **The Do-it-yourself Field Trip**

Take yourself on a field trip for this course! You may visit any location or event OFF THE SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS but you must be able to meet the requirements of the assignment. You are encouraged, but not required, to visit someplace you have never been before. Make it fun! Take your friends or family or organize a group from class to do something together.

You can go to a place or to an event. Visit an institution, attend a lecture, see an exhibit. It has to be real time/real space—not cyberspace.

How much credit?

You may do only **one** field trip per course per term, and may earn a maximum of 5% toward your final grade.

To get your credit, you must submit the following things no later than one week prior to the last day of this term:

(1) Proof of the date of your visit--which must be during this semester. This proof might be a ticket, a receipt from the gift shop, a flyer from a one-time event. Whatever it is, it has to have printed on it the name of the event /

institution and the DATE.

(2) A 1- to 2-page essay explaining where you went, why you chose it, and what you learned that applies to biomedical ethics. If this essay does not make clear how the visit is related to the course, you will not get extra credit. (If in doubt, you can always check with me ahead of time.) Remember, it has to be typed!

3. Ethical movie review

Watch a movie! Rent it, buy it or borrow it. Get together and watch the movie with your friends or your family. Have some popcorn and earn extra credit points. Submit a written review and earn 2% of your final grade for each movie reviewed up to the maximum extra credit points.

To get your credit, submit a 1- to 2-page essay explaining what you saw, the biomedical ethical issue(s) involved, and your position on the issue(s). If this essay does not make clear how the movie is related to biomedical ethics, you will not get extra credit. (If in doubt, you can always check with me ahead of time.) Remember, it must be typed!

The movie can be old or new. For some movie suggestions, contact me or feel free to check with me ahead of time about a selection you are considering.

First Responder:

Assignments and Instructions

1. After week 1, students will be assigned as first responders to get the group discussions started.
2. If you cannot be a first responder for that week, it is your responsibility to change weeks with another student and notify me of the change.
3. You will most likely be assigned more than one first responder week through the semester.
4. The first responder should **briefly** review the related material from the reading and include their answer to the discussion question.
5. First responders should post by **midnight on Monday** to give other students a chance to meet the midnight Wednesday deadline for their first post of the week.
6. This is part of your participation grade.
7. Remember to keep all responses **academic in nature** and **never as personal attacks** on fellow students.

Written Assignment Grading Sheets
Weekly Position Papers for Case Studies

Name:

Week:

Graded Topic	Points Possible	Points Received
Presented Information FOR	2	
Provided Supporting Evidence	2	
Presented Information AGAINST	2	
Provided Supporting Evidence	2	
Defended Personal Opinion	2	
Totals	10	

Comments: