

HUM170/HUM250 RELIGION AND BIOETHICS

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OBJECT OF THE COURSE

The cutting edge of bio-medical technology is bringing up unprecedented ethical issues to our society. None of religious traditions are equipped to provide concise answers to these complicated issues. We will study the current situation of bioscience and then, examine the ethical dimension of particular issues. Students will be also trained to express persuasively their personal view through debate practices and power-point presentations.

It is crucial for young generations to know what is going on in the field of bio-medical science, because they are going to be sooner or later exposed to diverse options of advanced technologies. Students should take seriously complicated moral issues around the available bio-medical science, and be prepared to make his or her own decision about what to do in crucial moments of their life. However, this course is designed to help the students with little knowledge to understand difficult topics with the use of appropriate handouts and films. Finally, creative group projects are most crucial in this class.

MAJOR TOPICS & STUDY PLAN:

- 1. What is Bioethics?:** Unstoppable Desires, Dilemma, “Menu” Theory
Film : ”Mask”
- 2. Organ Transplant:** Brain Death, Organ Donations, Organ Trading
Film: “Lorenzo’s Oil”
- 3. Artificial Fertility:** Prenatal Diagnosis, Genetic Control, Designer Baby
Film: “Gattaca”
- 4. Students’ Presentations:** Creation of Power-points and Oral Presentation
Topic: “Condition of Health and Human Happiness”
- 5. Enhancement:** Chimera, Cyborg, Cloning
Film: “Bicentennial Man”
- 6. Regenerative Medicine:** Stem Cells, Omnipotent Cells, Human Dignity
Film: “Island”
- 7. Euthanasia:** Un-curable illness , Various Types, Murder or Love
Film: “The Sea Inside”
- 8. Religious Perspectives:** Meaning of Life & Death, Spiritual Care
Film: “Patch Adams”
- 9. Students’ Presentations:** Creation of Power-points and Oral Presentation
Any topic on bioethics
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USEFUL WEBSITES:

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioethics>

Religion & Ethics: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/>

Bioethics Topics: <http://www.bhs.bham.wednet.edu/depts/science/crissy/topics-ethics.htm>

EVALUATION:

Attendance (30%), Discussion (30%), Group Project (20% X 2 = 40%)