

Biology 813: Issues in Bioethics Spring 2020

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Office hours: MWF 12:30pm – 1:30pm CST

Course Materials:

- Required Texts: *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Bioethical Issues*. 18th Edition. Gregory E. Kaebnick. ISBN: 9781260488333
- Announcements, quizzes, test, discussion boards, and position papers: All information for this class will be available on Canvas.
- E-mail: All students must use their UNK email account so that I can reach them.

Course Description: Bioethics is the study of ethical controversies in both biology and medicine. Science has progressed significantly in the last century and with this progress has come ethical questions. The intent of this course is to focus on a variety of issues that have arisen, including, but not limited to, assisted reproductive technologies, sex selection, cloning, and stem cell research to name a few.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain a broad background in biology and ethics.
2. To be able to make an informed analysis of bioethical issues.
3. To critically discuss bioethical issues in a group setting.

Students will achieve these objectives through quizzes, discussion board, and writing a critical overview.

Expectations:

Grades are based on participation and quality of discussion, weekly quizzes, a final comprehensive exam, and one writing assignment. There are no taped lectures for this course. Students must participate online for all discussion topics. The week runs from the Monday through the Sunday listed in the syllabus.

Grading Scheme:

	Points	Due Date
Discussion Board (15 chpt @ 10 pts each)	150	Bi-weekly
Quizzes (14 @ 10 pts each + 10 pts Intro)	150	Weekly (includes Introductions)
Position Paper (1 @ 100 pts each)	100	Sunday, March 22 nd by 11:59 pm CST
Comprehensive Final	100	Sunday May 3 rd at 11:59 pm CST
Total Points	500	

Grade assignment: Grades will be assigned using the standard grading scale for the Department of Biology, as follows: A (93-100%), A- (90-92%), B+ (88-89%), B (83-87%), B- (80-82%), C+ (78-79%), C (73-77%), C- (70-72%), D+ (68-69%), D (63-67%), D- (60-62%), and F (below 60%).

Week	Chapter	Quiz
#1 1/13-1/19	Introduction: Biology, Medicine, and Ethics	Introductions
#2 1/20-1/26	May Surrogate Decision Makers Terminate Care for a Person in a Persistent Vegetative State?	Timed quiz #1 over Chapter #1
#3 1/27-2/2	Should Physician-Assisted Death Be Legalized?	Timed quiz #2 over Chapter #2
#4 2/3-2/9	Should Embryos Produced During IVF Be Considered Children?	Timed quiz #3 over Chapter #3
#5 2/10-2/16	Should a Pregnant Woman Be Punished for Exposing Her Fetus to Risk	Timed quiz #4 over Chapter #4
#6 2/17-2/23	Should Pharmacists Be Allowed to Deny Prescriptions on Grounds of Conscience?	Timed quiz #5 over Chapter #5
#7 2/24-3/1	Is Human Germline Gene Editing Morally and Socially Acceptable?	Timed quiz #6 over Chapter #6
#8 3/2-3/8	Is the Use of Medical Tools to Enhance Human Beings Morally Troubling?	Timed quiz #7 over Chapter #7
#9 3/9-3/15	Should Scientists Create Artificial Living Things?	Timed quiz #8 over Chapter #8
#10 3/16-3/22	Could Conservation of Wild Species be Improved through the Use of De-extinction Tools?	Timed quiz #9 over Chapter #9
#11 3/23-3/29	Spring Break Position Paper over "When does life begin" due (3/23 at 11:59 pm CST)	No quiz
#12 3/30-4/5	Does Government Overreach by Mandating Health Insurance?	Timed quiz #10 over Chapter #10
#13 4/6-4/12	Is There an Ethical Duty to Provide Health Care to Undocumented Immigrants?	Timed quiz #11 over Chapter #11
#14 4/13-4/19	Should Terminally Ill Patients Be Able to Gain Access to Experimental Treatments?	Timed quiz #12 over Chapter #12
#15 4/20-4/26	Should HPV Vaccination Be Mandated?	Timed quiz #13 over Chapter #13
#16 4/27-5/3	Is it Moral to Buy and Sell Human Organs?	Timed quiz #14 over Chapter #14
#17 5/3-5/7	Class will officially end at 11:59 CST Monday, May 3 rd The comprehensive test will be removed at this time.	Timed on-line comprehensive test over all chapters

Discussion Board: You are posting as part of a **discussion**, not just for points. Each chapter/week discussion will be scored out of 10 points for a total of 150 points. You need to post during the week and weekend. You will be graded not on the number of posts per week (two is the minimum to get a score of any type for **each** question, it does NOT guarantee you will earn all the points possible), but on the **quality** of posts. **At least one post per discussion board** must have a peer-reviewed **science (not ethics or bioethics)** reference attached to it. Your other post(s) can have a Bioethics or ethics reference if you wish. This is a good practice in having an

informed opinion. The score for your posts will be based upon critical thinking (a post rich in content and full of insight), connection with issue and real-life situations, uniqueness (new ideas and new connections), depth and detail of posts, respect for classmates, and **discussion with classmates** (if you wait until Saturday and Sunday and are discussing with yourself or one other person, you get 0 points). As you can tell, I do not want people simply agreeing with each other or posting for points. You should be prepared to discuss the questions! The week runs from the Monday through the Sunday as listed above.

Quizzes: Throughout the semester, you will be given 14 timed quizzes worth 10 points each. In addition, the first week introductions will be counted as a quiz score. The quizzes will cover the book material. You will be allotted 5 minutes to answer 5 multiple choice, short answer, or true/false questions. The questions will be given one at a time. You will have only one chance to answer the question and will not be allowed to go back and change answers. Therefore, make sure to answer carefully. If you run out of time while taking the quiz, you will NOT be given extra time. If you have a problem while taking your quiz, send me an email and I will deal with it as soon as possible. The computer displays a message that tells me what kind of problem you had, whether you took too much time or there was a computer problem. Everyone is expected to take all of the quizzes. The dates for the quizzes are listed on the schedule and will be made available at 8:00 am CST on Monday. You have until 11:59 pm CST on Sunday of the week listed to take the quiz. For example, the first quiz will be put on blackboard at 8:00 am CST on Monday, January 20th and you have until 11:59 pm CST Sunday, January 26th to take the quiz. The purpose of these quizzes is to make sure that you are keeping up with the course material.

Position Paper: Students will have one formal writing assignment, which is a position paper on "When does life begin". Specific details on this writing assignment will be provided for you on Canvas. For every day the report is late, your grade will be dropped one letter grade. FYI, late day grading starts at midnight on March 22nd (i.e., as of this time, your paper is already a day late, even though it is only one minute late). Yes, you can hand these in early.

Final Exam: There is only one exam given and it is a comprehensive exam over the entire semester. The material on the exam will cover the book material. The exam will be composed of multiple choice, short answer, or true/false questions and is taken on-line. You will be given 80 minutes to answer 50 questions. Everyone is expected to take the exam.

UNK Library

The library is a good resource when looking for articles that may not be available online. The following links are especially usefully to distance students.

<http://library.unk.edu/services/distance.php>

<http://library.unk.edu/services/illdd.php>

If you have specific questions about Interlibrary loan contact Sheryl Heidenreich at heidenreichs@unk.edu.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, please refer to the student handbook or ask me for more clarification on the subject if unsure what constitutes plagiarism. It is expected students work independently on assignments unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Group work where not specified will be considered cheating and students will receive a zero for that assignment. Multiple offenses will result in the student(s) receiving a failing grade for the course and possible removal from the program.

Withdraw (W) and Incomplete (I)

In unusual circumstances beyond the student's control, an incomplete (I) may be issued. The (I) is issued as a final grade with the student having 12 months to complete the necessary work. If the coursework is not completed in this time the (I) will be converted to a failing grade (F) on the student's transcript. Students may withdraw from the course before 9 weeks have been completed and a (W) will appear on the transcript. Students are responsible for filling out the necessary paperwork to complete this process. Instructors are not able to withdraw students. If the student drops the class the (W) will not contribute to the student's overall GPA.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services for Students Office, 172 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8988 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

Students Who are Pregnant

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact Cindy Ference in Student Health, 308-865-8219. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security) 308-865-8911

Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.