

BIOL813: Issues in Bioethics

Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Yipeng Sui
E-mail: suiy@unk.edu

Office: Bruner Hall of Science Room 201E
Office Hours: M-F 9am-5pm Central Time (CT) by appointment

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 lectures, online quizzes/exams, and discussion board.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Textbook: Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Bioethical Issues. 18th Edition. Gregory E. Kaebnick. ISBN: 9781260488333
- Announcements, assignments, exams, and quizzes will be available on Canvas. Students should check Canvas regularly.
- All students **MUST** use their UNK email account to communicate with the instructor. You should check your email at least once per day.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser is **REQUIRED/MANDATORY** for all quizzes and exams! Here is the link to download: <https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=477439341%20>. More information is on Canvas. This will NOT work on a Chromebook or Linux computer.

EXPECTATIONS

Grades are based on participation and quality of discussion, quizzes, exams, and case study workbook answers. Students must participate online for all discussion topics. You are expected to post on Canvas weekly on the case study assigned. The quality of the discussion is exhibited by the contribution of original ideas, respect for differing opinions, and evidence of knowledge on the subject matter. Students are required to maintain a professional and cordial mannerism when communicating with the instructor and other students. When you are taking an online course, it is expected that you will read all of the materials and keep up with due dates on your own. I will not be reminding you of the due dates for the course. The calendar I created has all of the course due dates and you should be sure to download it and either transfer the dates to your calendar or keep a copy to make sure you don't miss any due dates. Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor by email about their questions and concerns for the class contents, assignments, quizzes, and exams. I will check my email Mondays to Fridays between 9 am and 5 pm CT. I do not check email after 5 pm CT and rarely on weekends. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours.

NOTICE ON USE OF COPYRIGHT MATERIAL

The materials on the course Canvas site and given in lecture are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated. The materials on the course Canvas site and in class may be protected by copyright, and any further use or

dissemination of this material may be in violation of Federal copyright law and University sanctions including failure in the course.

GRADE SCALE

Grades will be assigned using the standard grading scale for the Department of Biology, as follows: A+ (98.0-100%), A (92.0-97.9%), A- (90.0-91.9%), B+ (88.0-89.9%), B (82.0-87.9%), B- (80.0-81.9%), C+ (78.0-79.9%), C (72.0-77.9%), C- (70.0-71.9%), D+ (68.0-69.9%), D (62.0-67.9%), D- (60.0-61.9%), and F (below 60%). Grade assignments are final unless there is a calculation error.

GRADING SCHEME

Changes may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Activities	Points	Due date
Case Study Discussion Board (15 @ 10 pts each)	150	TBD
Quizzes (15 @ 10 pts each, including 1 overview quiz)	150	TBD
Position Paper	100	TBD
Comprehensive Final Exam	100	TBD
Total Points	500	

QUIZZES: Throughout the semester, you will be given 14 timed quizzes worth 10 points each, which will be taken using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. In addition, the first week introductions will be counted as a quiz score. The quizzes will cover the book material. You will be allotted to answer 5-10 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. **THE DEADLINE IS FINAL! The quiz will be removed at 11:00 pm CT on the Sunday due date.**

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.

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 online. **If you miss the final exam, you will automatically fail and receive a letter grade of an “F”.** The date for the exam is listed on the schedule. The exam will be made available at 8:00 am CT on Monday of the week listed and taken off at 5:00 pm CT on the date listed in Grading Scheme. **THE DEADLINE IS FINAL! The test will be removed at 5 pm CT on the due date.** Makeup exam will be given only under extreme or extenuating circumstances, which can be documented! In any and all cases, the final validity and acceptability of any excuse for absence are at the instructor’s discretion. The grading will be finished within a week after the quizzes, exams, and assignments are closed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION BOARD: For this class, there will be two discussion boards. One will be for introductions, syllabus discussion, general questions, and questions over lecture. With the exception of the introductions and syllabus forums, the general discussion board will **not be graded** and there will be no groups

established. If you have questions about lecture material, please post it here. Do not post questions about the quizzes or exams here. If you have a question about a quiz or exam you have taken, email me directly.

CASE STUDY 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. To receive a satisfied grade in this discussion board, you are expected to a) actively contribute to the discussion and b) read proper literature. 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. **You are also expected to reply to at least two comments from other classmates on your own postings.** 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**. All of your discussion to answer these questions should be made over Canvas so that I can witness the interactions. In your reference list, use the following format (note punctuation, capitalization, and abbreviation).

Journal articles:

1. Sinoway MP, Kitagawa K, Timsit S, Hashim GA, Colman DR. 1994. Proteolipid protein interactions in transfectants: implications for myelin assembly. *J Neurosci Res* 37:551-562.

Web page:

2. Converse PJ. 2006. Zinc finger protein 175; ZNF175. *OMIM*. Retrieved on August 1, 2018 from <https://omim.org/entry/601139>.

BONUS POINTS OR EXTRA CREDIT

I don't give Bonus Points/Extra Credit to Graduate Students, so please don't ask.

LATE WORK/MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY

Students are strongly encouraged to complete assignments, quizzes, and exams several hours before due. There will be no opportunity to make up missed quizzes, assignments or exams, and a score of zero will be assessed. **The deadline is final!** The exams will be removed at 5:00 pm on the due date. **Late papers will not be accepted!** Makeup exams will be given only under extreme or extenuating circumstances, which can be documented! In any and all cases, the final validity and acceptability of any excuse for absence are at the instructor's discretion.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Neither will be tolerated! I have a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** for both of these. Do either of them and you will automatically fail this course, not be allowed to re-enroll, possibly have criminal charges brought against you, and possibly be unable to enroll in future Biology courses.

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 the UNK Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

UNK STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our Latinx and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven

for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences. The following link provides resources and other information regarding D&I: <https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.php>

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. If you have questions regarding the information please contact **Mary Chinnock Petroski, Chief Compliance Officer** (petroskimj@unk.edu or phone 8400).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES RELATED TO COVID-19

All vaccinated faculty, staff and students, as well as visitors to campus, are encouraged, but not required, to wear face masks indoors. Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear masks. (Masks are required indoors for all individuals at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.) <https://nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2021/08/university-of-nebraska-system-updates-covid-19-protocols>

Consistent with the University of Nebraska's guiding protocols, there are circumstances in which many people in our community may not be able to be vaccinated. Faculty may request, not require, that students wear masks in class under circumstances that clearly indicate unnecessary yet controllable risk of infection. It is the right of instructor to decide if mask wearing will be required, or not, in their classrooms. Please note that pandemic precautions are subject to change. The absence and late assignment submission caused by COVID-19 will NOT receive penalties. If students were affected by the COVID, students should email the instructor as soon as possible so that the instructor could arrange other options for students.

COURSE TIMELINE

Topics and dates are TBD and subject to change by the instructor.