Overview
The goal of this course is to provide the learner with an understanding of key events and cases that have influenced the development of biomedical ethics, along with a reflection of the presuppositions and thinking of those involved at the time. In addition to the historical review of the medical, legal, philosophical, ethical and, where appropriate, theological aspects of past cases, the learner will also be challenged to reassess contemporary views, presuppositions and practices from the perspective of criticisms that might arise from future generations of patients, physicians, scientists and jurists. Learners will be encouraged to reflect upon and begin articulating the implications of these perennial challenges to contemporary case examples, and probable future challenges in which innovative technologies are being rapidly translated into clinical care and/or where historical distinctions between research and clinical care are blurred by translational science.

Objectives
- To recount classic cases and scenarios that have led to the current state of biomedical ethics and law
- To critically evaluate contemporary and prospective future challenges by applying lessons learned from past biomedical scenarios
- To develop scholarly writing skills for the publication of a biomedical ethics journal article

Evaluation
Course attendance and participation, although not required, are critical to the overall understanding students will gain from course content. Student grades will be based on participation in class discussions, the preparation of an individualized research agenda or proposal and its presentation in class.

Students are expected to spend approximately two to four hours of time per week on this 1-credit course.

For specific dates and times this course is provided, please see the quarterly detailed course schedule.