

CTSC 5261

Biomedical Ethics II: Perennial Challenges

Faculty: C. Christopher Hook, M.D.

Credits: 1

Quarter: Fall

Prerequisites: None

Overview

Biomedical Ethics II and III are tandem courses best taken as a pair, but depending upon the learner's interests, can still be of benefit independently. The goal of both offerings 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.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recount classic cases and scenarios that have led to the current state of biomedical ethics and law
- Understand the social, cultural and intellectual contexts of past positive developments and misadventures in medicine, science and ethics
- Critically evaluate contemporary and prospective future biomedical ethical challenges by applying lessons learned from past biomedical scenarios
- Recognize similar presuppositions and other ways of thinking by historical and contemporary counterparts
- Apply this information by anticipating probable outcomes and consequences based upon historical scenarios
- Develop personal ethical tools to guide each student's professional career to help avoid the mistakes of the past, and employ healthy humility and self-reflection

Evaluation

Course attendance and participation are critical to the overall understanding students will gain from course content. Student grades will be based on participation in class discussions, weekly comments and a presentation.

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](#).