

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine various feminist critiques of mainstream bioethics and explore the growth of feminist bioethics as its own distinct sub-field. We will work through feminist conceptions of autonomy and personhood, and discuss how those conceptions affect decision making with respect to medical interventions. We will focus upon ethical questions and cases that highlight feminist concerns about reproductive choice, reproductive technology, dependency and disability, gender and sex, and power imbalances. Lastly, we will explore global responsibility toward the provision of healthcare, especially in underdeveloped countries where access to healthcare is a major barrier to achieving a decent quality of life for women and children.

Class readings will be supplemented with specific cases that draw our attention to relevant ethical dilemmas that involve, among others, autonomy and abortion, gene manipulation, parental decision making over a child’s healthcare, care for disabled persons (especially those who cannot consent to care), gender construction, power imbalances, and resource allocation.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

*\*Specific cases to be incorporated into each lesson.*

### **Week 1 Introduction**

- Principles of Bioethics:  
<https://depts.washington.edu/bioethx/tools/princpl.html>
- “Ethical Theory and Bioethics” in *A Companion to Bioethics* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)
- “Ethics and Feminism” in *The Blackwell Guide to Feminist Philosophy*

### **Week 2 What is Feminist Bioethics?**

- “Feminist Bioethics: Where We’ve Been, Where We’re Going.” Hilde Lindemann, in *The Blackwell Guide to Feminist Philosophy*
- “A Care Approach” in *A Companion to Bioethics* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)
- Held, Virginia. 2006, *The Ethics of Care: Personal, Political, and Global*, New York: Oxford University Press. (selections)

### **Week 3 Reproduction & Autonomy**

- Childress, J. (1990). The Place of Autonomy in Bioethics. *Hastings Center Report*, 20(1): 12-17
- Thomson, Judith J. (1971) “A Defense of Abortion”, *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 1(1): 47–66.
- Hursthouse, R. (1991) “Virtue Ethics and Abortion”, *Philosophy &*

Public Affairs, 20(3): 223-246.

**Weeks 4 & 5    Reproduction & Assisted Reproductive Technologies**

- “Assisted Reproduction, Prenatal Testing, and Sex Selection.” Laura M. Purdy, in *A Companion to Bioethics* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)
- Kittay, E. “Disability, Eugenics, and Designer Babies”.
- Glover, J. (1984) *What Sort of People Should There Be?* New York: Penguin books. (selections)
- Baylis, F., 2013, “The Ethics of Creating Children with Three Genetic Parents”, *Reproductive Biomedicine Online*, 26: 531–34.

**Week 6    Pediatric & Family Care**

- “Severely Disabled Newborns.” Eike-Henner W. Kluge, in *A Companion to Bioethics* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)
- “Protecting Faith Versus Protecting Futures: Religious Freedom and Parental Rights in Medical Decision Making for Children.” Lynn Pasquerella, in *Having and Raising Children: Unconventional Families, Hard Choices, and the Social Good*.

**Weeks 7 & 8    Disability**

- “Patients Doubtfully Capable or Incapable of Consent.” Carl Elliott, in *A Companion to Bioethics* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)
- “Feminism & Disability.” Anita Silvers, in *The Blackwell Guide to Feminist Philosophy*
- Wendell, S. “The Social Construction of Disability”.
- Kittay, Eva. 2013, “Caring for the Long Haul: Long-term Care Needs and the (Moral) Failure to Acknowledge Them”, *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*, 6(2): 66–88.

**Week 9    Gender & Social Construction**

- “Gender and Bioethics”, Jan Crosthwaite; in *A Companion to Bioethics* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)
- Haslanger, S. “Gender and Social Construction” (TF 16-23)
- Neslon, J.L. (2014). “Medicine and Making Sense of Queer Lives”, *Hastings Center Report*: 44(s4):S12-S16.

**Week 10    Gender & Bioethics**

- “Regulating Sexuality: Gender Identity Disorder, Children’s Rights, and the State.” Ellen K. Feder, in *Having and Raising Children: Unconventional Families, Hard Choices, and the Social Good*.
- Powell, T. and Stein, E. (2014). “Legal and Ethical Concerns about Sexual Orientation Change Efforts”, *Hastings Center Report*: 44(s4):S32-S39.

**Week 11 Power & Privacy**

- “Confidentiality.” Raanan Gillon and Daniel K. Sokol, in *A Companion to Bioethics (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*
- “Feminist Epistemologies and Women’s Lives.” Lorraine Code, in *The Blackwell Guide to Feminist Philosophy*
- MacKinnon, C. “Sex and Violence: A Perspective” (TF 266-277)

**Weeks 12 & 13 Allocating Healthcare**

- “Deciding Between Patients.” John Harris, in *A Companion to Bioethics (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*
- “Society’s Allocation of Resources for Health.” Daniel Wikler & Sarah Marchand, in *A Companion to Bioethics (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*
- “Global Health Responsibilities.” Christopher Lowry & Udo Schuklenk, in *A Companion to Bioethics (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*
- “Global Trends in Nursing Ethics.” Verena Tschudin, in *A Companion to Bioethics (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)*