

# **STEVENS INSTITUTE of TECHNOLOGY**

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## **Biomedical Ethics Course 453---Spring 2023**

**Paperback Text (OPTIONAL):** Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions In Clinical Medicine (Sixth Edition) by Albert R. Jonsen, PhD, Mark Siegler, MD, and William J. Winslade, PhD, JD (or any other text of your choice on the subject)

**OR**

**Introduction to Clinical Ethics, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (paperback) by John C. Fletcher**

### **Required Book Readings:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Class: Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity and Love by Dani Shapiro**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Class: When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi**

**4<sup>th</sup> Class: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot**

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**The biomedical ethics course will be divided into four sessions focused on ethical principles and dilemmas that arise in the following areas:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Class: From Principles to Practice: *Becoming a Good Ethical Judge***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Class The Autonomy Principle: Truth-telling, Confidentiality and Privacy**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Class: Forgoing Life Sustaining Treatment: *Case Law in NJ/United States*  
Medical Aid-in-Dying, Medical Futility**

**4<sup>th</sup> Class: Healthcare Disparities: Social Justice and the Allocation of Scarce  
Resources**

### **Class Dates:**

**Time: TBD**

**Day of the week: Wednesday**

**Dates: January 18<sup>th</sup>**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Class I:** *From Principles to Practice: The Good Ethical Judge*

**PPT Presentation:** The Good Ethical Judge  
**Case Study:** How To Do Ethics: The Tilt Factor Model  
**Articles/handouts** distributed electronically

**Class II:** *The Autonomy/Truth-telling Principle in Practice*

**Review of articles/Truth-telling powerpoint**  
**Book:** *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro  
**Articles/handouts** will be distributed

**Class III:** *Forgoing Life-Sustaining Treatment: Case Law  
In NJ/United States/Medical Aid-in-Dying/Futility*

**Powerpoint:** Death by Choice: Forgoing Life-Sustaining  
Treatment Cases  
**Review articles/worksheets/Advance Directives/POLST**  
**Book:** *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi  
**Articles/handouts** to be distributed electronically

*Midterm Case Study* to be distributed electronically

**Class IV:** *Healthcare Disparities: Social Justice and The Allocation  
of Scarce Resources*

**Review of articles/Worksheets (Who Lives? Who Dies?)**  
**Powerpoint presentation:** Rationing of Resources  
**Book Discussion:** The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks  
**Case:** Who Goes? Who Stays?: Choices in the PICU  
**Case:** Who Lives? Who Dies? (worksheets)

### **Ground Rules for the Course**

**There will be four class sessions during the semester.** Articles, assignments and other materials will be distributed during class or electronically.

**Dates for Midterm Case Study and Final Paper TBD.**

## **Grading**

The course grade will be based on a score of 150 points. The midterm paper will count for 45 points, the final paper for 95 points and written class assignments for ten points. The midterm essay (approx. 2-3 pages) will be based on a case study. Papers should demonstrate use of the ethical decision making process, ethical language, case law, and other appropriate resources that illuminate the ethical issues.

The final paper will be a brief **research** paper (approx. 3-5 pages) focused on a controversial bioethics topic that is of interest to you. You will be expected to use relevant resource materials to support your arguments and conclusions. Please make sure to present arguments on both sides of the case before reaching a judgment. Grades for written work will be based on application of the ethical decision making process, the use and integration of ethical language, the citing of case law where helpful, and the use of research and other appropriate resources.

- **Please note that all assignments must be submitted electronically to**

**[hdblank48@gmail.com](mailto:hdblank48@gmail.com)**