

BIOET 401Q: “Science, Ethics, Policy, and Law”

Fall 2023

A Partial, Entirely-Incomplete, Only-Suggestive List of Possible Policy Brief
Topics, In No Particular Order

Note: All of these are relatively broad suggestions; while not required, the general expectation is that your policy proposal would be somewhat more specific (e.g., addressing one aspect, locality, or instance of the more general topic).

1. More or less any topic from the last month of the class
2. Genetic testing for disease proclivity
3. “Fad” diets and nutrition research
4. Physician / patient confidentiality rules and HIPPA
5. FDA regulations: food safety, the drug approval process, etc.
6. Land use and development (local, state, national)
7. Natural preservation, conservation, and ecosystem management
8. Endangered and threatened species
9. Energy production: drilling, fracking, wind, solar, hydroelectric
10. Pollution, recycling, and waste management
11. Nanotechnology and its implications
12. Inequality, at the local / national / global level
13. Polarization and balkanization (political, social, religious, etc.)
14. Some general things that you might address in some specific field; note that, or any given field, these may or may not apply:
 - Data falsification / research integrity
 - Industry funding of research / “commercialization”
 - Treatment of human / animal subjects
 - “Hype” / publicity of findings
 - “Quacks” / credentialing and validity / reliability
 - Treatment of students / post-docs / apprentices
 - Gender / ethnic / etc. representation and biases
 - Forecasting and the (ab)use of prediction