### BIOETH 502: Foundations of Bioethics II

- **M 1-3:50 p.m. CST 150**
- **Instructor:** Toby Schonfeld
- *Bioethics students only

**Brief course rationale:**
This course will survey a number of contemporary issues in bioethics that have been in the forefront of the bioethical movement in the United States for at least the last two decades, as well as the context of the healthcare system. Topics have been chosen because of their enduring character as well as how they embody trenchant conflicts over values and ethical principles. By appreciating the nature of these conflicts, students will achieve a considerable insight into the nature and limits of rational, principled argument for resolving bioethical debate.

**Course description and goals:**
This course is intended to offer students a deep familiarity with key issues and dilemmas that these topical areas represent. Students will learn how the theoretical and principle-based approaches to bioethical problem solving presented in the Foundations I course can be applied and what their limits are.

**Course Objectives:**
At the end of this course, students should be able to 1) list familiar conflicts and social policy problems that have been highly representative of the bioethical debate in the United States for the last 20 years, 2) explain how certain conceptual and value tensions preserve these problems as problems, 3) discuss the limits of bioethical theory and principles for resolving these debates, 4) continue to elaborate the language of bioethics as it occurs in practical or applied settings (e.g., clinical or hospital practices).

### BIOETH 504: Bioethics Seminar

- **M 5:30-7pm CST 150**
- **Instructor:** Toby Schonfeld
- *Bioethics students only

**Course Rationale:** This seminar course is designed to give students an opportunity to discuss current issues in bioethics and draw connections between contemporary bioethics work and students’ classroom and research activities.

**Course Description:** This course will give students an opportunity to discuss classic or contemporary bioethics issues not already covered in the core courses. While there will be assigned reading, the focus of the course is on interdisciplinary dialogue. In addition, part of each seminar session will be devoted to developing skills in critical thinking, argument construction, and argument analysis.
Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the main positions (and objections to those positions) of several contemporary issues in bioethics
2. Analyze and deconstruct arguments embedded in larger narratives
3. Develop oral analytical and facilitation skills in the context of bioethics

BIOETH 505: Contemporary Issues in Neuroethics
Tu 3-5:50 pm; CST 162
Instructors: John Banja, Paul Root Wolpe

Course Description:
Neuroethics has been called “the neuroscience of ethics and the ethics of neuroscience.” Over the last fifty years, neuroscientific research has increasingly provided remarkable insights into the nature of moral deliberation and reasoning as well as questioned the validity of traditional moral concepts like free will, self, intentionality, and personal accountability. More recently, however, ethicists have been focusing moral attention on numerous “neurodeliverables” and have worried about their potential for abuse. Topics that have received considerable scholarly attention include cognitive enhancement strategies (e.g., improving memory, attention, and personality), “brain reading” (such as using functional magnetic resonance imaging to detect lying or to identify deviant personalities), brain stimulation and neuroprostheses, and brain modification. This course will provide an overview of many of these issues.

Course Objectives:
By the end of the course, participants should be able to:

• Explain neuroethical controversies involving traditional philosophical conceptions of the self, free will, and moral deliberation
• Develop a critical and informed sensibility on the ethical trajectory of neuroscientific research
• List contemporary ethical issues over the use (or abuse) of evolving neurotechnologies;
• Assess the extent to which contemporary neuroscientific research might modify our understanding of the human being, human relationships, and human flourishing.

WS 585; BIOTH 505; IBS 500R: Engineering Life and Ethical Practices
W 10 am – 1pm; CST 162
Instructors: Professor Deboleena Roy and Dr. Sara Giordano

Course Description:
This course will be run as a semester-long training program that focuses on developing ethical practices for engaging with new genetic engineering technologies, particular in the emerging field of synthetic biology. Ethics and scientific research are often seen as discrete enterprises. As such, previous ethical frameworks have worked by addressing concerns regarding new biotechnologies either before the research commences, or after the research has been completed. In both cases, the potential impact of ethical engagement is separated from the everyday research process. The intention of this course is to create an interdisciplinary and collaborative framework or “bench-side” approach for critical analysis as the scientific
experiments and research develop. We will examine the potential benefits of using community-based and participatory research practices to create a framework of analysis that recognizes ethics and science as being mutually constitutive. The class will focus on topics that are central to current work in synthetic biology including environmental and health impacts (biofuels and pharmaceuticals); safety and security implications (bioterrorism and DIYbio); and concerns regarding intellectual property rights (creation of new bacterial organisms, watermarks and biopiracy). The course will be run in a seminar/workshop format and students will have the opportunity to work closely with several leading scholars and activists in the area of ethics and synthetic biology research.

The course will be composed of a diverse group of 12 graduate students primarily from Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Bioethics, and Women’s Studies. Students from other departments such as Chemistry, Philosophy, ILA, Law, Theology and Public Health are also welcome to enroll provided spaces are available. All students must obtain permission of the instructor. If you are interested in enrolling in this course, please contact Dr. Sara Giordano at sgiorda@emory.edu.

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**BIOETH 601: Bioethics Practicum**

**Th 2-4 p.m. CST library**

**Instructor:** Toby Schonfeld

*Bioethics students only*

**Course Description**

The Bioethics Service Learning Practicum gives students in the MA Bioethics program an opportunity to develop an understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the daily workings of the complex health care, legal, scientific, or public health environments in which bioethical questions arise. Students will not just observe and critically assess the pragmatic, legal, social, and other constraints on ethical decision-making in the practice setting, but also will provide valuable ethics service to the organization or institution at which the practicum is completed.

**Course Objectives**

Through participation in the Bioethics Service Learning Practicum, students will:

1. Develop critical skills acquired in the classroom and acquire new skills in identifying, assessing, and addressing ethical issues in a practice setting;
2. Recognize the opportunities and challenges of addressing ethical issues in an institutional or organizational setting;
3. Collaborate with site partners to design a project or perform activities that will be of service to the organization/institution;
4. Produce a final product that demonstrates clearly the integration of applied knowledge, principles, and skills acquired through classroom instruction.
The student will also work with the Faculty Advisor and Site Supervisor to establish site-specific objectives and practice goals important to the organization/institution and relevant to the student’s interests.