

BIOETHICS AND THE BRAIN – BIO 591 / HPS 591
SPRING 2007, TUESDAYS, 4:40-6:30PM
PROFESSOR JASON SCOTT ROBERT
REVISED SYLLABUS, 21.01.07

DESCRIPTION

This interactive seminar will introduce students to the normative and practical dimensions of ethics in brain research. Techniques and technologies to be covered may include: neuroimaging, neurostimulation, neurosurgery, neural stem cell research, neurogenetics and neurogenomics, and the relationship between neurology and psychiatry.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Our primary text is Walter Glannon's *Bioethics and the Brain* (Oxford, 2006), to be supplemented by occasional readings. These will be made available online via my.ASU. For those interested in an introduction to or refresher on brain science, I have ordered an optional text, Ammar Al-Chalabi et al.'s *The Beginner's Guide to the Brain* (Oneworld, 2006).

ASSESSMENT

Your grade in this class will be based on regular participation (20%), an in-class presentation of your research in progress (20%), and a research paper (60%). Your research paper will be due one week after the final class, 8 May 2007.

FORMAT

Most sessions will include a short presentation by me or an invited guest, followed by student-initiated discussions of the readings. Students will present their research in progress at appropriate times throughout the semester.

POLICIES

- Any assignment handed in late, without an appropriate excuse, will be penalized 5% per day (including weekend days).
- Reading assignments are to be completed in advance. The reading assignments are not onerous, but bear in mind that oftentimes philosophical literature must be read twice or three times to facilitate comprehension.
- Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who would like to discuss course requirements and accommodations are asked to see Professor Robert as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

If you submit work that is not your own, you will be fully disciplined in accordance with university policies. Plagiarism or cheating in any form will not be tolerated. It is your responsibility to be aware of, understand, and adhere to the rules and regulations of Arizona State University. Please consult your student handbook and http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/judicial/academic_integrity.htm for further details.

RESEARCH

Beyond *Web of Science* and *PubMed*, search engines and databases that are particularly useful when conducting bioethics research include the National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature (<http://www.georgetown.edu/research/nrcbl/databases.htm>) and the Philosopher's Index (available through the ASU Library at <http://www.asu.edu/lib/resources/indexabs.htm>).

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings
16-Jan	Introduction: Bioethics and the brain	Farah; Illes & Bird; Fuchs
23-Jan	Brain, body, and self	Glannon, Chs. 1-2
30-Jan	Brain, body, and self <i>Cont'd</i> + Neuroimaging	Glannon, Ch. 3; Feinberg & Keenan
6-Feb	Neuroimaging <i>Cont'd</i>	Decety & Lamm; Knutson et al.; Wolpe et al. Snyder et al.; Goldman & Windrem; Martino & Pluchino
13-Feb	Neural stem cell research	
20-Feb	Chimeric brains (Francoise Baylis)	Robert & Baylis; Greene et al.; Robert
27-Feb	Chimeric brains <i>Cont'd</i>	Greely et al.
6-Mar	Neurostimulation, surgery	Glannon, Ch. 5; Foster
13-Mar	Spring break: no class scheduled	No class scheduled
20-Mar	Cyborg brains (Steve Helms Tillery)	Donoghue; Hochberg et al.; Lynch
27-Mar	Cyborg brains <i>Cont'd</i>	Elliott; Gillett; Parens
3-Apr	Neuroscience now and tomorrow (Susan Fitzpatrick)	Greenfield; others TBA
10-Apr	Psychopharmacology	Glannon, Ch.4; Elliott
17-Apr	Psychiatry, behavior, neurogenetics, neurogenomics	Kendler x 2; Turkheimer; Hu-Lince et al.
24-Apr	Evolution and morality	Readings TBA
1-May	Student presentations and wrap-up	