Biomedicine and Culture

Course prefix: LMC

Course number: 3318

Section: HP

CRN (you may add up to five):
93447

Instructor First Name: Carol

Instructor Last Name: Senf

Semester: Fall

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

In this course, you will learn to recognize, assess, consider, and articulate the ways that ethical principles are deeply informed by humanistic and philosophical inquiry, which in turn shapes our lived histories, politics, and cultural expressions across a range of disciplines and professions. This course discusses the history of medicine and medical technologies; literary and popular representations of health, disease, and the medical establishment; ethical issues related to medicine and public health; and cultural conditions affecting the development of medicine and medical technologies. Subjects include interpersonal conflicts between doctors and patients, the Tuskegee syphilis study and the establishment of bioethics, the race among researchers to discover the HIV virus causing AIDS, sustainability and public health, patients' rights, and genetic technology. *Prerequisites: ENGL 1101, ENGL 1102. Attributes: Humanities, Ethics*

Course learning outcomes:

- To increase awareness of the cultural factors affecting the development of biomedical knowledge and practice
- To increase awareness of and think critically about the role of biomedicine, including its technological means, in culture
- To explore nuance and ambiguity in ethical debates about research and practice in biomedicine
- To communicate in sophisticated ways about these issues of broad concern, orally and in writing

Required course materials:

Course materials are available as pdfs on the Canvas site.

Grading policy:

All written assignments should be posted to the class Canvas site. Late assignments will not be accepted unless you arrange with the instructor **in advance** of the due date.

GRADING SCALE: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, less than 60=F

Attendance policy:

Because class discussion and in-class assignments make up a significant percentage of the final grade for this class, excessive absences (more than 2) could result in an unsatisfactory mark. Submit the appropriate documents to the instructor for medical, athletic, or other justified absences. Extended absences away from campus for family, medical, or legal reasons should be reported to both the instructor and the Dean of Students Office. The Georgia Tech Office of Student Life in Atlanta also has information: [https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/class-attendanceLinks to an external site.](https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/class-attendance)

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas.

This course will help students master course content and support your broad academic and career goals. This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence