

Course Description:

This is a three-credit course intended for advanced undergraduates. Introduction BIOS are prerequisites. This course includes reading assignments, exams, group activities, class discussion, written reports, and a service-learning project. Reading, attending, and participating in class are fundamental to this course. We expect you to be courteous to your fellow students and do not disrupt class by entering and leaving the room, reading, talking, allowing cell phones to ring, etc. This class also addresses some of the Sustainable Development Goals. Throughout our course, in addition to learning philosophical, medical and research ethics content, we will discuss on occasion how our course material connects to the contemporary aspects of bioethics.

Learning Objectives:

After completing this class, you will be able to:

- (1) Describe basic ethical theories and principles.
- (2) Apply ethical thinking to issues in biology and medicine and recognize ethical and professional responsibilities in real-world contexts.
- (3) Describe and evaluate the ethical challenges and complexity of issues involved in medicine, biological research, and public policy, and environmental concerns.
- (4) Synthesize reading, discussion, and writing skills to assess bioethical issues, actions or decisions based on established ethical principles and theories, or through deliberative processes.
- (5) Recognize the ways that culture shapes ethical views and critically evaluate those views.
- (6) Analyze a bioethical issue and engage in solving current ethical problems in the research or health professions.
- (7) Develop an ability to consider the implications of actions, both broadly (e.g. global, economic, environmental, or societal) and for individuals.

Required Course Materials:

Lewis Vaughn, "Bioethics, Principles and Cases" 6th Edition, Oxford University Press, New York, 2025

Grading Policy and Weighting:

1. Your final grade will depend on the following combination of grades:
 - Co-facilitation 15%
 - Writing assignments (reading responses and in-class activities 1%%
 - Midterm exams (equally weighted) 45%
 - Reflective service project (including all project components) 15%
 - Participation + attendance 10%
 - Total 100%
2. We will assign final letter grades using the following scale:
 - A: $\geq 90.0\%$
 - B: $\geq 80.0\%$ and $< 90.0\%$
 - C: $\geq 70.0\%$ and $< 80.0\%$
 - D: $\geq 60.0\%$ and $< 70.0\%$
 - F: $< 60.0\%$

The above scale is the most stringent we will use, and you are not competing with anyone for your grade.

Course Policies**Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance and class participation are required for success in this course. Arriving late will affect your participation score. Communicate with the course instructor as soon as possible if you must miss a class for any reason; written confirmation of a legitimate excuse, such as a severe illness, will be required for excused absences. If you miss any part of a class without legitimate excuse, then you will receive no credit for that day's assignments and participation

credits. There are no make-up assignments. If your absence is excused, your grade will be calculated from the remaining graded assignments.

Class participation in the form of discussing issues, asking questions, and respectful listening will make up a substantial portion of your grade. You will not be graded, nor will you be judged, on your specific beliefs. Bioethical discussions often involve questions of values; such discussions can become personal, subjective, and emotional. However, it is essential to understand and develop skills in making rational decisions and arguments, and to remain respectful of others when they speak. Bioethical discussions in this course are not meant to lead to decisions regarding issues. Rather, they should result in understanding and evaluating the perspectives, ideas, and arguments both for and against different viewpoints.

You will receive participation credit if you have thought carefully about the subject matter, applied moral reasoning to the topic at hand, and contributed to the class in a respectful manner. A quality comment possesses one or more of the following properties:

- Offers a different, but relevant, perspective
- Contributes to moving the discussion and analysis forward
- Builds on other comments
- Considers evidence-based arguments rather than relying on “I feel” statements
- Demonstrates reflective thinking

In-class participation score will be assessed according to the following scale:

- 1 point (half credit): present but made no contribution or meaningful comment in discussion
- 2 points (full credit): offered appropriate, considered comment during discussion that met one or all the criteria noted above
- 3 points (rare; extra credit): offered exceptional, highly insightful or otherwise noteworthy comment; this is the type of comment that others will remember after class is over

Absences:

Regular attendance and active participation during class time are correlated with better performance in the course. If you miss class, you should get notes from a peer and meet with a TA to get your content questions answered. If you experience any situation that causes you to miss more than one consecutive class or otherwise interferes with your ability to keep up with course assignments, we ask that you request assistance from the Dean of Students using this link: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance>. Select “Class Absence Verification” for documentation of an absence, including missed exams. Select “Meeting with a Dean” for any other issue that is interfering with your ability to succeed in this or any other course. Missed exams fall under the **Missed Exams** policy. Missed participation sessions due to absences for any reason fall under the **Missed Participation policy**.

- **Missed Exams:** If you miss an exam for any reason, you will receive a grade of 0 (zero) on that exam unless you petition us for a makeup exam within 24 h of the start of the missed exam, and we approve your petition. Your petition must be submitted in writing (by e-mail) with a legitimate reason for missing the exam. Documentation is required for any exam to be considered excused; any medical documentation should be submitted to the Dean of Students (<https://studentlife.gatech.edu/request-assistance>) and *not* to your course instructors. You are encouraged to submit your petition before the exam if you know of your scheduling conflict in advance. Examples of legitimate reasons to miss an exam include illness, illness or death in your immediate family, and participation in official university activities. Requests for makeup exams due to missed class for religious observances also require documentation and must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office using the Instituted Approved Absence Form **within the first two weeks of the semester** as per the Registrar’s Office guidelines: <https://registrar.gatech.edu/info/institute-approved-absence-form-for-students>. We will consider each petition individually. For students with approved petitions, we will either administer a makeup exam or replace your missed exam score with the average of your other exam scores, weighted by the class average for each exam. Exam grade replacement is intended only in situations where it is not feasible to administer a makeup exam. The formula to calculate your score on a missed exam is: (your missed exam score) = (class average of missed exam) x [(sum of your scores on exams you took) / (sum of class averages on exams you took)]

Academic Honesty:

All students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Code (<https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>) and the Student Code of Conduct (<https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>). Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, lying about course matters, plagiarism, submitting someone else's work as your own, stealing classroom materials, or helping others commit a violation of the Honor Code. Plagiarism includes any form of representing the words or ideas of others as your own. Cell phones must be off/silenced and placed face-down on the desk during exams. Any student found with a phone or other unapproved electronic device on their person during testing will be referred to the Office of Student Integrity. Suspected violation of the Academic Honor Code in any form may be referred to the Office of Student Integrity for adjudication.

Student-Faculty Expectations:

The Georgia Tech Student-Faculty expectations may be viewed here: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/>

Students with Accommodations:

We will make classroom accommodations for students with documented accommodation needs per the Office of Disability Services. These accommodations should be arranged in advance and in accordance with the Office of Disability Services (<http://www.disabilityservices.gatech.edu>). Students with accommodations on exams must schedule their exams at least five business days in advance with the testing center, and exams at the Testing Center must be scheduled to occur on the same day and at the same time as the scheduled exam. Students who are unable to schedule on the same day and time as the exam must have instructor permission to take the exam at an alternative time or day. Students with accommodations on exams forego those accommodations if they choose to take the exam in the classroom.

Academic Support:

Academic Success and Advising provides free support for your courses. Students can attend weekly supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283. · Communication Center: <http://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu>

Individualized help with writing and multimedia projects · Academic advisors for your major: <https://advising.gatech.edu/find-your-advisor>

Personal Support: In your time at Georgia Tech, you may find yourself in need of support. A starting point is <https://belonging.gatech.edu/student-support>, and below are some direct links to resources available on campus. ·

The Office of the Dean of Students: <https://studentlife.gatech.edu/services/academic-financial-personal-assistance>; 404-894-6367; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor · Counseling Center: <https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/> 404-894-2575; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor

Services include short-term individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling, testing and assessment, referral services, and crisis intervention. Their website also includes links to state and national resources.

Students in crisis may walk in during business hours (8am-5pm, Monday through Friday) or contact the counselor on call after hours at 404-894-2204.

Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources (STAR): <https://star.studentlife.gatech.edu/>

Can assist with interview clothing, food, and housing needs. · Stamps Health Services: <https://health.gatech.edu/>; 404-894-1420

Primary care, pharmacy, women's health, psychiatry, immunization and allergy, health promotion, and nutrition · Veteran's Resource Center: <http://veterans.gatech.edu/>; 404-385-2067

Georgia Tech Police: 404-894-2500

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A comprehensive list of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being and can be found here: <https://students.gatech.edu/student-resource-guide>

Last updated: 4/9/26. Note: This Syllabus and Schedule are subject to change. 3 of 4

