Philosophy 759 Applied Ethics
Winter 2017-18

Instructor: Dr. Elisabeth Gedge
Office: UH 303
Class: 11.00-1.00 pm
Office hrs: Fridays 1.30-3.00

Course description:

In the last few decades feminist theory has impacted bioethics in profound ways. Starting with Susan Sherwin’s comprehensive work, *No Longer Patient* (Temple, 1992), feminists have brought their disciplinary and interdisciplinary tools to bear on a range of pressing topics: power and privilege in therapeutic relationships; the social construction of disability and disease; consent and autonomy; reproductive technologies and social pronatalism; sexualities and agency; justice and “borderless” provision of health care services. In this course we will trace and assess the journey of feminist bioethics through the *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*’ tenth anniversary publication, *IJFAB at Ten.*

Text:

Course Requirements:

Weekly reading summaries (approx. 1 page): 10/12 weeks - 10%
Seminar presentation - 20%
Paper outline (due on or before March 23) - 10%
Major paper (due April 13): - 60%

The purpose of the weekly summaries is to ensure that students come to the seminar ready to discuss the material in an informed and critical manner. The summary should include a question for discussion by the group.

Each student will choose a date and topic for a seminar presentation. The presentation will be based on the reading for the week, and should engage the class in a critical discussion of the ideas presented. The grade will be determined by the accuracy of the textual interpretation, and the depth and interest of the critique presented. It is likely that students will want to use the presentation as a basis for the major paper.

An outline of the proposed major paper is due by March 23. Each student will send me their outline in advance of an appointment to discuss it. The outline should describe the critical aim of the paper and sketch the argument to be taken. If secondary materials are to be used these should be identified.
The **major paper** should be 12-15 pages. Students may submit drafts of their paper for review prior to April 1.

**Academic dishonesty** consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Schedule of Readings**


Jan 19: No Longer “Handmaiden”: The Role of Social and Sociological Theory in Bioethics

Jan 26: A Legal-Political Framework for Feminist Bioethics: The Case of International Gestational Surrogacy

Feb. 2: The Medical Nonnecessity of In Vitro Fertilization

Feb. 9: The Ethics of Postponed Fatherhood

Feb. 16: Pronatalism, Geneticism, and ART

Mar 2: Hips, Knees and Hernia Mesh: When Does Gender Matter in Surgery?


Mar 16: Expressive Touch and the Attitude of Care: The Case for LGBT-Inclusive Intake in Aging Network Services

Mar 23: Still Gloria: Personal Identity and Dementia

Mar 30: Cross-Border Reproductive Travel, Neocolonialism, and Canadian Policy

April 6: IEPI Presents!