

**University of Hawaii at Manoa
John A. Burns School of Medicine
PhD in Clinical Research
Spring 2007**

Course Number: BIOM 648

Course Title: Foundations of Ethics in Biomedical Research I

Instructor: Zoë H. Hammatt, JD, MPhil

Course Credit: 3 credits

Prerequisite: MD, PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree or permission of instructor

Course Description

This course explores the foundations of biomedical ethics, primarily through small group discussion and independent work focused upon a particular issue selected by each student. Principles of beneficence, nonmaleficence, autonomy and distributive justice are discussed and compared to other models for ethical decision making in various circumstances. The nature of health and disease, the ethics of physician-assisted suicide, genetic engineering, confidentiality, informed consent, and resource allocation, for example, are addressed within an integrated consideration of biomedical ethics. Material related to individual and group rights, cultural relativism vs. cultural absolutism, standards of care, and research ethics, particularly in ethnically diverse populations, is reviewed. Issues are considered from a broad perspective as well as within an Asian Pacific context. International and national law and policies are discussed, particularly as relevant to genetics, genomics and end-of-life decision making, as well as a range of other topics.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

1. evaluate traditional notions of biomedical research ethics;
2. analyze research ethics guiding social movements in healthcare within ethnic and minority populations from a broad perspective as well as within an Asian Pacific context; and,
3. appraise international and national legal & policy issues related to research ethics.

Learning Experiences

Seminars

Seminars are comprised of writing exercises, role play activities, roundtable discussion, presentations and debate, and peer evaluation. Each student will be responsible for three brief presentations during the course of the semester.

Directed Study

Individual work includes independent research and writing. Students will complete a paper, 15-20 pages (not including references), double-spaced, 11 font.

Evaluation

Seminar participation and oral presentations 50%

Outline of paper 10%

Written paper 40%

Required Texts

Resolving Ethical Dilemmas: A Guide for Clinicians, Bernard Lo, 3rd ed., Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2005.

Principles of Biomedical Ethics, Tom L. Beauchamp, James F. Childress, 5th ed., Oxford University Press, 2001.

Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, UNESCO 2005.

Articles and other documents relevant to each student's topic, as well as to biomedical ethics in general.