

**Biology 389****Bioethics****Fall 2018****Instructor:** Tom Kieft**Office:** Jones Annex 301; Lab: Jones Annex 302**Office Hours:** Mon & Wed. 10-12 (I am often available at other times, too.)**Phone:** -5321; **Email:** [thomas.kieft@nmt.edu](mailto:thomas.kieft@nmt.edu)

**Learning Objectives.** Following the completion of this course, students should have an appreciation for and understanding of

1. An appreciation for and general understanding of the study of ethics.
2. An appreciation for and understanding of the ethics of scientific endeavor, including medical research.
3. An appreciation for and understanding of some of the ethical issues posed that arise in the context of clinical medicine. These include issues involving human reproduction, gender choices, end of life, inequalities in availability of health care.
4. An appreciation for and understanding of the science underlying some of the current controversial issues in bioethics, e.g., the applications of CRISPR-Cas for gene editing, the applications of stem cell technology, human genome sequencing, use of genetically modified organisms, etc.
5. An ability to approach bioethics issues objectively and to consider multiple points of view.

**Textbook:** Vaughn, Lewis. 2017. *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press.

**Course materials on the web:** Some course materials will be made available via Canvas (<https://nmt.instructure.com/>). These materials include old exams, PowerPoint files, homework assignments, and handouts.

**Grading** will be based on the following

- Attendance, participation, discussion. Weighting: 20%
- Debates. Each student will participate in two debates. More information will be given later on the format and expectations. Weighting: 40%
- Final presentation and paper. Weighting: 40%

Course grades will be based on the following scale: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, ≤59% F. If necessary, the scale will be shifted down (curved) until the top 10% of students receive an A.

**Academic Honesty** is expected of all students. Consult New Mexico Tech's Academic Honesty Policy (page 79 of the 2017-2018 Catalog (<https://www.nmt.edu/registrar/2017-2018%20Course%20Catalog%20FINAL.pdf>)). You are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following this policy.

It is especially important for the final paper that you fully understand how to properly cite all sources of information that you use and that you avoid plagiarism. Your take-home exam answers are essays, for which you must provide answers in your own words, but citing your sources of information. Note that paraphrasing is a form of plagiarism.

Turn off the ring tone on your phone. Put your phone away during class.

Attend class. Take notes. Ask questions. Read the textbook.