

Jewish Medical Ethics
PHL 141
American Jewish University Campus in Israel
Young Judaea Year Course

This course aims to take contemporary ethical issues arising from technological and medical advances, and study them from an abstract philosophical approach. The aim is not to give any practical 'rulings' on these matters, but rather to stimulate and encourage philosophical thought about these issues through the eyes of traditional Jewish sources and contemporary texts. We will look at issues such as reproductive technologies, abortion, organ donation and receipt, genetic screening, euthanasia and other issues.

Students will be evaluated based on quizzes (15%), a mid-term paper in which the students will explore a medical dilemma not addressed in class while utilizing the theories and concepts learned (40%) a final exam (30%), and attendance, participation and class preparation (15%).

Class Sessions and Readings:

Class 1

Introduction

- Steinberg, Avraham, "Medical Ethics in an Interreligious Comparison: Judaism," Symposium of Medicine and Ethics (EthikMed), Supplement 1, S112-S115, 1998

Class 2

When Does Life Begin and Abortion

- Cornelia Dean, "Telling the Stories behind Abortions", New York Times November 6, 2007
- Traditional sources on Abortion
- "Prenatal Testing and Abortion," Proceedings of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative Movement 1980-1985, The Rabbinical Assembly, New York, 1988, pp. 3-10
- "Oklahoma is sued over required Ultrasounds for Abortions", The New York Times, October 11, 2008

Class 3

Procreation and Contraception

- Traditional sources on Procreation and Contraception
- Fred Rosner, Contraception
- Elliot Dorf, Preventing Pregnancy

Class 4

Fertility Treatment

- Yarden Cope-Yossef, "Fertility Treatment – How Far?"
- Mordechai Halperin, "In-Vitro Fertilization, Insemination and Egg-Donation" Assia – Jewish Medical Ethics, 1988
- Wasting Sperm
- Richard Grazi & Joel Wolowelsky, "Donor Gametes For Assisted Reproduction In Contemporary Jewish Law and Ethics", Assisted Reproduction Review, 1992
- Gaby Wenig, "Supervising Life", The Jewish Journal, February 6, 2003.
- Deborah Allen, "Whose Baby Is It?" 2002
- Richard Grazi & Joel Wolowelsky, "On Foetal Ovary Transplants", Le'ela, Number 40, September 1995.

- Richard Grazi & Joel Wolowelsky, "New Ethical Issues in Infertility Therapy", Le'ela, Number 35, April 1993.
- Joseph Gitlin, Surrogacy

Class 5

Genetic Testing

- Amy Harmon, "Cancer Free at 33", The New York Times, September 16, 2007
- Danir Eisenberg, "Genetic Screening for Breast Cancer Genes", Aish.com, 1995
- "Screening for Breast Cancer", The Journal of Ha'achava
- Judy Siegel-Itzkovitch, "Hadassah breaks chain of BRCA mutation", The Jerusalem Post, February 10, 2008.
- Tamar Traubman, "Tay-Sachs, the Jewish Disease, 'almost eradicated'", Haaretz, January 18, 2005.

Class 6

Designer Babies

- Juliet Macur, "Born to Run? Little Ones Get Test for Sports Gene," The New York Times, November 30, 2008
- Michael Lemonick, "Designer Babies," Time, January 11, 1999.
- Richard Grazi & Joel Wolowelsky, "Sex Selection and Halakhic Ethics: A Contemporary Discussion," Tradition
- Jodi Piscoult, My Sister's Keeper, Washington Square Press, NY 2004
- Shaoni Bhattacharya, "Five 'designer babies' created for stem cells," The New Scientist, May 5, 2004
- "Hadassah launches pro stem cell lobbying" The Jerusalem Post, February 24, 2005.

Class 7

AIDS and Transgender in Halacha

- Fred Rosner, "AIDS: A Jewish View" Biomedical Ethics and Jewish Law
- Rebecca Rosengerg, "University is Rattled by Transgender Prof," New York Post, September 8, 2008.
- Meira Maierovitz Drazin, "When Abba became Ima: Transsexuals confront the Orthodox World," The Florida Jewish News, September 9, 2008.
- Mayer Rabinowitz, "Status of Transsexuals", Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly, 2003.

Class 8

Definition of Death and Euthanasia

- "When The Lord Takes Away" – Rabbinic sources on the definition of death
- Yitzchok Breitowitz, "The right to Die: A Halachic Approach," Jewish Law Articles, February 20, 2008
- Fred Rosener, "Euthanasia"
- "Extinguishing The Candle", Rabbinic sources on euthanasia.

Class 9

Organ Donation

- Julie Gruenberg, "Reluctance to donate organs persists, despite new views", Jewish News Weekly.
- Mathe Wagner, "Chabad Rabbi who aided Chernobyl children dies," The Jerusalem Post, September 22, 2008
- Neta Sela, "Ultra Orthodox rabbis slam organ donation bill," Ynet.com, March 27, 2008
- Michele Chabin, "Organ Donation: Legal, But Still Controversial," The Jewish Week, September 30, 2008

Class 10

Medical Data from Nazi Experiments

- Baruch Cohen, "The Ethics Of Using Medical Data From Nazi Experiments"

Class 11

Final and Closing Remarks

Mid-Term Project - A written paper (5 -8 pages, 12 font, 1.5 spaced, bibliography) due January 12th. In this paper, students are expected to discuss the Jewish ethical concerns relating to a medical dilemma not addressed in the syllabus through an evaluation of both primary and secondary sources. Possible topics include, but are not limited to the following: cosmetic surgery, conjoined twins, cost of health care, drug addiction, distribution of scarce medical resources, triage, informed consent, malpractice, and treatment of the mentally ill.

Suggested Bibliography

- Abraham, Abraham S., **The Comprehensive Guide to Medical Halachah**, Feldheim Publishers, Jerusalem, 1996
- "Advance Directive for HealthCare," State of New Mexico
- Amsel, Nachum, **The Jewish Encyclopedia of Moral and Ethical Issues**, Jason Aronson Inc., Northvale and London, 1994
- "An Introduction to Organ Transplantation," ASSIA – Jewish Medical Ethics, Vol. III, No. 1, January 1997, p.5-6
- Bleich, J. David, **Bioethical Dilemmas: A Jewish Perspective**, Ktav Publishing House Inc., Hoboken, 1998
- Cohen, Alfred S., editor, Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society, Number XXV, Rabbi Jacob Joseph School, Staten Island, 1993
- Cytron, Barry D., and Schwartz, Earl, **When Life is in the Balance: Life and Death Decisions in Light of the Jewish Tradition**, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Department of Youth Activities, New York, 1986
- "Declaration of Professional Responsibility," <http://www.ama-assn.org> - American Medical Association
- Dorff, Elliot N. and Newman, Louis E., **Contemporary Jewish Ethics and Morality: A Reader**, Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford, 1995
- Dorff, Elliot N., Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics, Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia and Jerusalem, 1998
- "Genetic Testing Helps Five US Couples Conceive 'Saviour Babies,'" Agence France Presse – May 5, 2004
- Halperin, M. and Fink, D., editors – **The Proceedings of the First International Colloquium: Medicine, Ethics, and Jewish Law, July, 1993**, Dr. Falk Schlesinger Institute for Medical Halachic Research at Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem, 1996
- Halperin, Mordechai, Fink, D., and Glick, Shimon, editors, Assia – Jewish Medical Ethics, Dr. Falk Schlessinger Institute for Medical-Halachic Research at Shaarey Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem, 1988, Vol. 1, No. 1

- “Health Care: It Takes a Hevrah,” Responsum from the Conservative Movement’s Committee on Jewish Law and Standards
- “Heart Transplants in Israel,” Decision of the Chief Rabbinate Council of Israel
- “Human Cloning License Issues in UK,” <http://www.cnn.com> - August 11, 2004
- Jacob, Walter, and Zemer, Moshe, editors, **Death and Euthanasia in Jewish Law: Essays and Responsa**, Freehof Institute of Progressive Halacha, Rodef Shalom Press, Pittsburgh and Tel Aviv, 1995
- Jakobovits, Immanuel, **Jewish Medical Ethics: A Comparative and Historical Study of the Jewish Religious Attitude of Medicine and Practice**, Bloch Publishing Co., New York, 1967
- “Jewish Medical Directives for Health Care,” The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, The Rabbinical Assembly
- “Karen Ann Quinlan,” <http://www.imc.gsm.com/demos/dddemo/consult/karenann.htm>
- Kennedy, Ian, and Grubb, Andrew, Medical Law: Text and Materials, Butterworths Law, New Zealand, 1994
- “Kevorkian Gets 10 to 25 Years in Prison,” <http://www.cnn.com>, April 13, 1999
- “Living Will,” <http://www.ccarnet.org/resp>
- Meier, Levi, **Jewish Values in Bioethics**, Human Sciences Press, Inc., New York, 1986
- “Organs for Sale? With So Many People in Need of Organs, Why Can’t They Buy Them?” ABC News.com, August 8, 2004
- “Prenatal Testing and Abortion,” Proceedings of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative Movement 1980-1985, The Rabbinical Assembly, New York, 1988, pp. 3-10
- “Principles of Medical Ethics,” <http://www.ama-assn.org> - American Medical Association
- Rosner, Fred, and Bleich, J. David, **Jewish Bioethics**, Hebrew Publishing Co., Brooklyn, 1979
- Rosner, Fred, Biomedical Ethics and Jewish Law, Ktav Publishing House Inc., Hoboken, 2001
- Rosner, Fred, editor, **Medicine and Jewish Law, Volume 1**, Jason Aronson Inc., Northvale and London, 1990
- Rosner, Fred, editor, **Medicine and Jewish Law, Volume 2**, Jason Aronson Inc., Northvale and London, 1993
- Rosner, Fred, **Modern Medicine and Jewish Ethics**, Ktav Publishing House Inc., Hoboken, and Yeshiva University Press, New York, 1972
- Rosner, Fred, **Modern Medicine and Jewish Law**, Bloch Publishing Co. for Yeshiva University Press, New York, 1972
- Simon, James L., Zwerin, Raymond A., and Marcus, Audrey Friedman, Bioethics: A Jewish View (A Student Manual), A. R. E. Publishing, Denver, 1984
- Smalley, Suzanne, “A New Baby Debate,” Newsweek, March 24, 2003

Steinberg, Avraham, "Medical Ethics in an Interreligious Comparison: Judaism," Symposium of Medicine and Ethics (EthikMed), Supplement 1, S112-S115, 1998

"Telling the Truth to Terminal Patients," Moment Magazine, October 1992, pp. 22-23

"The Brain Death Controversy in Jewish Law," Jewish Action, Spring 5752/1992, pp. 61-80

"The Halachic Living Will," Agudath Israel of America

"Tracking the Sale of a Kidney on a Path of Poverty and Hope," The New York Times, May 23, 2004

"When Does Human Life Begin?" <http://zygote.swarthmore.edu/intro5.html>

"When is Abortion Permitted?" <http://www.ccarnet.org/resp/>

Zohar, Noam J., **Alternatives in Jewish Bioethics**, State University of New York Press, Albany, 1997

Internet Sites:

<http://www.ama-assn.org>

<http://www.bioethics.com/>

<http://www.ccarnet.org/resp/>

<http://www.darchenoam.org/ethics/bioethics/>

<http://www.hods.org/>

<http://www.jlaw.com/Articles>

<http://www.medethics.org.il/>

<http://www.organdonor.gov/>

<http://www.organdonor.gov/>

<http://www.pathcom.com/~mjyeres/medethic.htm>