Primary Instructor, Brown: Prof. Sheila Bonde
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Seminar meets every Thursday from 4-6:20 pm in Pembroke Hall 202, (172 Meeting Street) except for teleconferences which will meet at 8 am in Pembroke Hall 202.

Course consultants: Julianne Hanavan (OVPR), Min Li (Zhejiang University), D. Parthasarathy (Indian Institute of Technology), Dianne Quigley (Environmental Science), Eric Suuberg (Engineering), Danny Warshay (Engineering).

Aims of the seminar:
This seminar considers the ethical tradition in the sciences, and the varied ways in which ethical issues are engaged in scientific fields. Readings and case study examples are drawn from a range of fields, including engineering, chemistry, physics, astronomy, psychology and the biological sciences. Training in ethics or RCR (Responsible Conduct of Research) is often proscriptive and universalizing, listing practices to avoid rather than recommending attitudes to adopt. Students in the sciences are not always encouraged to reflect upon the ways in which science intersects with larger societal questions. This seminar is not a training course, but a forum for exploring the ways in which we make ethical decisions in a global world. The seminar has been designed with NSF funding, and is being co-taught at Brown University, Zhejiang University in China and the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai, India. The three sections of this seminar will meet together to share international perspectives twice during the semester.
Learning Objectives:
Students will explore a range of ethical perspectives, and will gain experience in analyzing the ethical perspectives of stakeholders in scientific research, product development and everyday life. They will gain experience in voicing ethical values in difficult situations.

Requirements:
- active class discussion and participation…………………………………..20%
- weekly position papers (1-2 pages).………………………………………..20%
- poster presentation in the end-of-the-year student conference……………..20%
- research term paper (15-20 pages).…………………………………………40%

Reading Assignments:
Students are expected to have read all material listed for the week’s assignment by class time. Readings are available on the University mycourses website.
SCHEDULE OF SEMINAR MEETINGS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS
(Please come to class prepared to discuss and critique the readings in detail.)

Jan. 27: Introduction: How do we make choices?
Case Studies:
1. Easy on the Wallet or Easy on the Earth?
2. Confronting a Fetal Abnormality
3. The Case of the Million-Dollar Decision
4. The Case of the Plant Relocation
Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University,
(http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/focusareas/cases.cfm)

Feb. 3: Thinking Ethically and Globally
“A Framework for Thinking Ethically,” Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University,
(http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html)

Case Studies:
1. The BP Spill in the Gulf of Mexico
Stephanie Malik, “Ethical Questions Surrounding the BP Oil Spill,” Practical Ethics 6/29/10:

Interior Requests Offshore Agency Ethics Probe: Reuter, 5/25/2010: 
(http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2513361220100525)

“Ethical Lapses: The BP Oil Spill,” Gulf Oil Spill Blog, 10/16/2010 : 
(http://site-press.com/gulfoilspillblog/2010/10/ethical-lapses-the-bp-oil-spill/)

2. Wikileaks
Margaret Somerville, “Wikileaks, wiki-leakers and wiki-ethics,” Mercatornet, 12/10/10: 
(http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/wikileaks_wikileaks_and_wiki-ethics/)


Luciano Floridi, “The ethics of Wikileaks,” Philosophy of Information, 12/08/10: 

Feb. 10: Global Science and its Obligations: Cosmopolitanism and Narrative Imagination
K. Anthony Appiah, Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers, New York: Norton, 2006, 
Introduction (pp. x-xxi.)

Martha C. Nussbaum, Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in 

Writing Assignment: Narrative Imagination in Another’s Moccasins.


Case Studies:
1: Engineering Ethics Codes


2: Stem Cell Research


Feb. 24: Cultural Competence, Participatory Research and the Ethics of Language

Case Studies:
1: Participatory Rural Appraisal in a Maori Tribal Context

2: Ethics of Language and Discourse as a Strategy
Annica Bragd, Dorit Christensen and Barbara Czarmawaka, and Maria Tullberg, “Discourse as the Means of Community Creation,” Scandinavian Journal of Management 24.3, 2008, 199-208 (http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=MImg&_imagekey=B6VFS-4S45K8-1-1&_cdi=6018&_user=489286&_pii=S0956522108000213&_origin=browse&_zone=rslt_list_item&_coverDate=09%2F30%2F2008&_sk=999759996&wchp=dGLzVtb-zSkWb&md5=cd027040b5735ccfab10536c806a7a40&ie=/sdarticle.pdf)


Mar. 3: Teleconference:
Who Owns Ideas? Intellectual Property, Publishing and Credit

Yongmin Chen and Thitima Puttitanum, “Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation in Developing Countries” Journal of Development Economics 78.2 (2005) 474-493 (http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=MImg&_imagekey=B6VBF-4GNTFYR-1-10&_cdi=5936&_user=489286&_pii=S0304387805000635&_origin=browse&_zone=rslt_list_item&_coverDate=12%2F31%2F2005&_sk=999219997&wchp=dGLzVlz-zSkWA&md5=bf079802f26b79f589a9ad0a9fe86d&ie=/sdarticle.pdf)


Case Study: Research Misconduct: why does it happen? How do we identify it?


Mar. 10: Who Owns Data? And How is it Represented?
Kate Worlock, “The Pros and Cons of Open Access,” Nature (http://www.nature.com/nature/focus/accessdebate/34.html)

Public Library of Science: Open Access (http://www.plos.org/oa/index.html)


Elinor Ostrom, Joanna Burger, Christopher B. Field, Richard B. Norgaard and David Policansky, “Revisiting the Commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges” (http://www.sciencemag.org/content/284/5412/278.full)

Case Studies:
1: Hubble and Kepler Telescopes and Access to Astronomical Data

2: How is Data Represented?

3: Representing Uncertainty

Robin Attfield, The Ethics of Environmental Concern, Atlanta: University of Georgia Press, 1991, chap. 1

Diane Curtain, Environmental Ethics for a Postcolonial World, Lanham, 2005, chap. 1


Case Study: Planning and Water Resources

Mar. 24: no class—individual appointments for research projects

March 26-Apr. 3: Spring Recess

Apr. 7: Where are the Human Subjects?


Case Study:
1: Tuskegee Syphilis Study


Apr. 21: Student Poster Session

Apr. 28: Conclusions