

## **PHIL 543B: Medical Ethics**

The Ethics of Human Experimentation

Time: Thursday, 10:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

Room: 3647 Peel, Room 102

Instructor: Jonathan Kimmelman

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Office Hours: by appointment

### **Course Overview:**

Some of the earliest and most foundational debates in bioethics grew out of revelations about abuses in human experimentation. This class provides an introduction to the ethics of experimenting on human beings. Areas to be covered include the following: (1) scandals involving research with humans; (2) ethical and regulatory guidelines and structures; (3) ethical theory and principles of human research ethics; (4) empirical literature on ethical practice. The course is additionally intended to help students develop skills needed to perform academic research in biomedical ethics.

### **Course Requirements:**

The course is a seminar. Each meeting consists of about 30 minutes of lecture, followed by 2.5 hours of discussion. Readings per session are largely drawn from classic and current ethical and medical literatures. Evaluation of students is mostly on the basis of class participation, a class presentation, and a final paper

### **Topics Covered:**

- Week 1: Introduction to History and Theory of Human Experimentation Ethics
- Week 2: The Research-Treatment Distinction:
- Week 3: Informed Consent
- Week 4: Equipoise
- Week 5: Risk
- Week 6: Value and Validity
- Week 7: Interest Conflicts and Inducements
- Week 8: Placebos and Sham Surgery
- Week 9: Paediatric Research
- Week 10: Developing World
- Week 11: Special Topics 1: Translational Clinical Trials
- Week 12: Special Topics 2: Marginally “Human” Subjects
- Week 13: Special Topics 3: Protecting “Non-subjects” / Recap