



Department of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine
University Medical Center Göttingen

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Introduction to Bioethics

WS 2019/2020

Mandatory module in the BA course Molecular Medicine

B.MM. 306

Dates: Wednesdays, 16.15 – 17:45

Location: STÄPS – 0.C3 509 Seminarraum I

First Seminar Date: October 16, 2019

Please register by October 14 by sending an e-mail!

Course Description:

This course addresses the main ethical positions, arguments and moral issues that arise in the practice of medicine and biomedical science. The aim of the course is to engage students in critically reflecting on contemporary controversial bioethical issues and to provide a first comprehensive insight to Bioethics. It also aims to show that the disagreements in bioethics can be revisited and resolved in more than one reasonable way.

Human, animal and stem cell research raises complex and challenging questions of responsibility within the scientific community as well as in public: Is the researcher allowed to do whatever in her possibilities to do? Which research objectives do justify exposing test subjects to possible risks and killing test animals? Why does a researcher have to take responsibility and according to which principles should she act ethically? Despite many legal regulations and ethics committees, every scientist or doctor will eventually confront with such ethical questions that are not very easy to answer.

In order to achieve the objectives of the course presented below, there will be required reading materials and the students will actively engage in group discussions and group presentations. **The active participation of all students is a requirement of this course.**

Objectives:

- To achieve familiarity with basic ethical frameworks and approaches and to understand how they can be applied to controversial issues in biomedical ethics.
- To ensure that participants are acquainted with the contemporary debates.
- To develop critical thinking skills by evaluating opposing views on an issue and analyzing the arguments.
- To encourage participants to express their own views clearly in class discussion and engage with the views of other participants.