

# Syllabus Spring 2016 Online STS 2105 Social Issues Science, Technology, and Society: Medical Ethics

## **Course Description:**

This course provides students with the knowledge and tools necessary to critically examine the development and integration of science, technology, and society. The course seeks to help students better understand the world in which they live, the broader implications of their major course of study, and the complex social, ethical, and moral choices presented by modern science and technology.

STS 2105 is an interdisciplinary course designed to help students realize the impact we each have individually and collectively on a local and global scale through science, technology, and society. The goal is to see how decisions, educational, professional, social, and personal, affect the complex social, ethical, and moral choices of a modern technologically and scientifically advancing world. Through discussions and assignments in bioethics, morality, ethics, ethical theory, professionalism, and case studies, this course is designed to help students evaluate all sides of environmental disaster ethical dilemmas and to be able to express and defend their own position in these and other issues.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and evaluate competing views and the information supporting them.
2. Formulate their own opinions on complex issues and to communicate their views clearly in both written and oral formats, and support their position with relevant evidence.
3. Recognize the ways in which science and technology have been shaped by, and have helped to shape, society, and culture.
4. Apply STS concepts to the scientific disciplines and technologies relevant to their majors.
5. Participate effectively in multidisciplinary groups.

## **Critical Thinking Overlay:**

This course will meet the following general education overlay learning outcomes: Students will evaluate and synthesize information to support ideas and perspectives.

## **Instructor Contact Information:**

Professor Trina Queen

[tqueen4@kennesaw.edu](mailto:tqueen4@kennesaw.edu) (**preferred and most reliable** contact method)

Office Room: J-319, Atrium Building, Marietta campus

Office Hours: by appointment either in person or online

## **Required Course Materials:**

Social Issues: Perspectives in Science and Technology, 2015

You can purchase the textbook from the bookstore as a downloadable e-book or directly from the publisher [http://www.kendallhunt.com/potter\\_queen/](http://www.kendallhunt.com/potter_queen/) or from Amazon as either an e-book or in print.

## **Electronic Communication:**

You must have access to the Internet and email on a regular basis preferably daily but **at least**

**three times a week.** General information, written assignments, and group project information are distributed through D2L and your student email. Access to word processing software will also be necessary to complete, post, and submit course assignments.

### **Library Assistance**

Directly from our library: "The KSU Library System assists all students, faculty and staff with their research, including using library databases to find articles, accessing books and other materials in our catalog, and for specialized research needs. Librarians are available for in-person walk-up assistance at library help desks, one-on-one research appointments, and 24x7 via library chat. For more information on library locations, hours, and how to access our services please visit <http://library.kennesaw.edu/>."

### **Students with disabilities:**

It is the policy of Kennesaw State University to seek to make all of its programs and facilities available to all qualified students, including students with a handicap. In an effort to fully comply with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who because of a handicap encounters any barrier to his/her full utilization of Kennesaw State programs or facilities is encouraged to contact the affirmative action officer or the counselor for disabled students for assistance. The university will, insofar as possible, assist the student in seeking solutions to handicap barriers.

Any student who feels he/she needs accommodations for this course is encouraged to contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Without waiving course requirements, appropriate accommodations can be implemented where feasible. For additional information, check the Student Disability Services website: [http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/dsss/welcome.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/welcome.html).

### **Official Campus Policy on Hazardous Weather:**

Review the official policy in the campus handbook. As an Internet course, the weather will rarely cause any interruptions. Assignments will be due as assigned **unless otherwise posted on D2L or through email**. If you feel you have a particular situation that merits discussion, contact me as soon as possible.

### **Campus Closures:**

In the event of an extended campus-wide closure lasting more than a day or two (for example, swine flu outbreak), this online course will continue as scheduled. I will send changes through campus email. If any student has a personal situation in which they wish individual review, **contact the instructor as soon as possible.**

### **Academic Integrity Statement:**

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also <https://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

**Disruption of Campus Life Statement:**

It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/ or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the university disciplinary process.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### Weekly Topics and Assigned Readings

### STS 2105 Social Issues: Medical Ethics

You are responsible for reading the assigned chapters **before EACH class** as preparation for the next week's discussion.

Week	Topic	Textbook Reading DUE EACH WEEK	Read By Date
1	Introduction	Ch. 1	1/11
2 & 3	Social Issues	Ch. 2	1/18
4 & 5	Biology & Genetics	Ch. 3	2/1
6 & 7	Education	Ch. 4	2/15
8 & 9	Religion	Ch. 5	2/29
10 & 11	Technology & Robots	Ch. 6	3/14
12	Politics (Spring Break 4/2 – 4/8)	Ch. 7	3/28
13 & 14	Medicine & Health	Ch. 8	4/11
15	The End?	Ch. 9	4/25

**Grading:**

I will make every effort to return your papers as quickly as possible. Although this is not an English class, grammar and spelling do count. **Proofread** your work carefully and **never rely** on computer programs to perform that task completely for you. If you have questions about your

grades, do not wait until the end of the term to ask. Bring any questions you have to my attention as soon as possible after you receive your grade. Waiting may cost you the ability to argue on your behalf. I do not curve grades and generally do not round up since I offer very generous extra credit. Extra credit is voluntary but highly recommended.

**REMEMBER** - Ethics discussions will touch on personal issues for most if not all of us. Classroom conversations must remain academic in nature and never become personal attacks directed toward an individual, their profession, their beliefs, their religion, their culture, etc. Keep in mind it is the discussion element that provides the alternative viewpoints that challenge/strengthen your point of view. You can get no more out of the class discussion than you are willing to put into it and your classmates learn nothing from those who remain silent.

### **Grading Scale**

A = 270 – 330 points

B = 240 – 269 points

C = 210 – 239 points

D = 180 – 209 points

F = 000 – 179 points

### **Graded Activities**

Participation – 60 points

Written Assignments/Activities – 75 points

Group Project – 65 points

Midterm – 50 points

Quizzes – 50 points

Extra Credit – 30 points

1. **Participation** – 60 total points possible – Students are required to participate in weekly online discussions regarding the week's reading assignments. This portion serves as our "virtual classroom" and the place where our ethical discussions take place. Students receive points based on individual participation in the online discussions. You must post **AT LEAST TWICE EACH WEEK** to receive full credit for that week. That means there are 30 required responses over the course of our semester. Each response is worth two points for a total of 60 points. After the first week of class, I will assign students, alphabetically, as first responders to get the discussions started. The first responder should post **NO LATER THAN NOON** on Tuesday because the first weekly posting is due **by midnight on Wednesday and the second posting by midnight on Saturday**. One post each week (except the first week) must be in response to something another student has posted. All posts must be academic in nature and never personal attacks directed to an individual, their profession, their beliefs, their religion, etc. Your discussion posts must be a minimum of 50-75 words and more than simple agreement with another student to count for a grade. Aim for a minimum of at least three meaningful sentences. Your first responder post counts as one response for the week you are assigned. Unless you are assigned a discussion question, you may choose which two questions you would like to respond to each week. You may respond to all three but you are not required to do so. If you have any questions, just ask.
2. **Written assignments/activities** – 75 points possible – You will be required to submit **three** written assignments. Directions for each assignment are posted/will be posted in the drop box in D2L. **Written assignments are due as assigned in your D2L calendar and must be received in the dropbox by 11:59 PM. I do not accept late papers for grading purposes without valid reasons.** However, if your particular circumstances warrant special consideration, talk to me. If you have any trouble with your assignment including the electronic submission process, do not hesitate to email me.
3. **Group project** – 65 points possible – This is an interdisciplinary project requirement meaning each member must be from a different field of study or major program. I will help divide the class into groups according to their respective majors. Groups must

present final projects in some electronic form viewable by all students for peer review.  
**See instructions and due dates posted below.**

4. **Midterm** – 50 points possible – You will be provided a medical ethics terminology handout as a study guide. **Your midterm vocabulary quiz is based on the terminology handout provided in D2L.** The midterm will be taken online during the week of February 8<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Quizzes** – 50 total points possible – These are short quizzes designed to test your knowledge in several areas including the syllabus, academic honesty, bibliographies, and APA/MLA citations. You will have unlimited attempts over a four week period to achieve 100% for these quizzes. Information for the bibliography and citation quizzes will be provided in the quizzes in D2L. **Pay careful attention to the due dates of your quizzes. They are located in D2L.**
6. **Extra Credit** – 30 points possible – This is limited to 10% of the total points available throughout the semester. Keep in mind 10% is the opportunity for an entire letter grade if you need it or an extra cushion if you do not. Choosing to participate is entirely **your decision**. Extra credit may be earned in one or more of the following ways (instructions for each opportunity must be followed for the credit to be awarded):  
 Do-It-Yourself Field Trip  
 Related movie, book or game review  
 There may other **voluntary** opportunities during the semester.

### **Written Assignment Instructions:**

Medical Ethics issues easily have two or more sides, many representing professionals, clients/patients, their families, and sometimes the law or court. For these assignments (unless instructed otherwise), you are required to **present the issues on the pro/for side with supporting evidence documented from your textbook, present the issues on the con/against side with supporting evidence, and then defend your own personal position on the issues by citing supporting evidence.** Supporting evidence must come from your textbooks unless otherwise stated and must be documented in correct APA or MLA citation. Papers require an annotated bibliography. The written assignments must be **typed and double-spaced**. Your name and page number must appear **only in the header** of all pages to identify each page of your paper.

**Written assignments are due as assigned on D2L. I do not accept late papers for grading purposes without valid reasons.** If a student expects to be unavailable on the due date, to receive full credit for the paper, submit the paper before it is due via the D2L dropbox. Ask questions regarding papers **before** the assignment due date unless the question is about a grade received.

### **The Writing Center**

"The KSU Writing Center helps students in all disciplines and at all levels of ability improve their written work. Experienced, friendly writing assistants work with you on topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and more. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter](http://www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter) or stop by English Building, Room 242 (Kennesaw campus) or Building A, Room 184 (Marietta Campus)."

### **Final Group Project Instructions:**

This is an interdisciplinary project requiring each member to be from a different field of study or major program. Each group will consist of approximately 4-5 students (meaning 8-10 projects total). The project will be broken down into a few steps to facilitate both individual and group progress on the project. The final project must be presented in some electronic form that can be viewed by all students for peer review.

1. Each student is required to submit two working links of their professional code of ethics from their intended occupation or field of study, one from the United States and one from another country. This submission must have a valid source included such as book title, magazine, working link, etc. Either way, I should be able to get back to your information. If you do not know where to look, try a Google search for your professional organization and the words "code of ethics" (for example – American Medical Association code of ethics) or simply ask me. If you do not know what your professional organization is, search your profession and the words "professional organization" such as engineer professional organization or accountant professional organization and you will see several options. Begin your search early just in case and remember to talk to me if you have any difficulties. **Submit these links to your assigned group project discussion thread NO LATER THAN midnight on January 25<sup>th</sup>. This is an individual step required of all students and worth 5 points.**
2. This step involves each student reviewing both codes of ethics/conduct for their field and listing the specific ethics from each that are not applicable to any and almost every profession. If you think the specific ethics apply only to your field, tell me which ones and the reason why. If you think the entire code is generic, just simply state that in your private group discussion thread. Some of you will actually find this is the case. Ask me if you do not understand this assignment, as it is an important part of your group project. **This assignment must be submitted NO LATER THAN midnight on February 8<sup>th</sup>.** This is an individual step required of all students and worth 10 points.

Group structure may change after the final class withdrawal date. This is simply another challenge to meet head-on. If you have any questions regarding your group, contact me if or when they occur.

3. The group is responsible for taking the professional ethics from each member with the input of step two and together rewriting **one** set of professional ethics for **any profession**. You must go beyond the no lying, no stealing, be nice to your customers philosophy. You must incorporate professional codes of ethics from international organizations in the final project. How you do that is up to the group, but I must be able to see incorporation of international ethical elements in the final product.
4. The final product will be in the form of an electronic presentation with the format selected by the group. Each presentation must incorporate the work of all members and last between 4-7 minutes. Create your own training scenario for employees. Maybe you are giving this presentation to your bosses and your peers in an orientation environment. Maybe you need to improve relations between employees and customers. On the other hand, maybe you are teaching everyone to be accountable and to hold each other accountable for their actions. You decide; it is your presentation. Use the project grading rubric as a guide to make sure your project addresses all required elements.

Your group must also decide on the choice of medium to present the final project. It

might be power point, role-play, videotaping, a tool found on the Internet to create projects (ex. Prezi), or even animation software (ex. PowToons). Use your imagination. Use color, use sound, use whatever seems visually appealing or appropriate to keep the attention of your audience and get your message out. Let your creativity shine, but remember the grading criteria listed on the evaluation sheets in this syllabus! That is how you, your classmates, and I will grade your project so build the project with those considerations in mind.

5. **By midnight on March 20<sup>th</sup>**, each group is required to submit the final projects to me via email ([tqueen4@kennesaw.edu](mailto:tqueen4@kennesaw.edu)). I will upload the projects to D2L exactly as they were provided to me. The projects will be visible on the homepage after I receive and repost all of the projects.
6. Lastly, you must complete the group review sheets (**grade yourselves, your project, and your group members**). **Failure to submit your own review sheet results in a grade of 0 for your individual evaluation. Failure to participate in the project results in an overall grade of 0 for the group project.** Learning to evaluate your peers and yourself honestly is an important skill you will use throughout your career whatever field you choose. You must also view the other projects after I post them on our D2L home page and complete the review sheets for each group. **Review sheets must be posted in the dropbox and are due no later than midnight on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

In addition to the two individual steps worth a total of 15 points, you will receive grades based on the project review sheets. Your final project scores are comprised of the average individual score received from you and your group members (for a total of 10 points possible), average of the group score received from the class (20 points possible), and my grade for your group project (20 points possible) for a total of 50 points. If you do not participate in the project at all, you will receive a zero for the entire project. This is a required component of all STS 2105 sections.

### **Extra Credit Instructions:**

#### 1. **The Do-it-yourself Field Trip**

Take yourself on a field trip for this course! You may visit any location or event related to our class (ask me for suggestions or approval if you are unsure), but you must be able to meet the requirements of the assignment. You are encouraged, but not required, to visit some place you have never been before. Make it fun! Take your friends or family or organize a group from class to do something together. You can go to a place or to an event. Visit an institution, attend a lecture, or see an exhibit. It has to be real time/real space—not cyberspace.

#### **How much credit?**

You may do **two** field trips per course per term, and may earn a maximum of 5% (15 points) for each trip toward your final grade.

**To get your credit**, you must submit the following things no later than one week prior to the last day of this term:

(1) Provide proof of the date of your visit—which must be during this semester. This proof might be a ticket, a receipt from the gift shop, a flyer from a one-time event. Whatever it is, it has to have printed on it the name of the event / institution and the DATE.

(2) Type a 1- to 2-page essay explaining where you went, why you chose it, and what you learned that applies to medical ethics. If this essay does not make clear how the visit relates to the course, you will not get extra credit. (If in doubt, you can

always check with me ahead of time.)

2. **Related movie, book or game review**

Watch a movie! Rent it, buy it, or borrow it. Get together and watch the movie with your friends or your family. Have some popcorn and earn extra credit points. Submit a written review and earn 2% (6 points) of your final grade for each movie reviewed up to the maximum extra credit points.

**To get your credit**, submit a 1- to 2-page essay explaining what you saw, the ethical issue(s) involved, and your position on the issue(s). If this essay does not make clear how the movie relates to ethics, you will not get extra credit. (If in doubt, you can always check with me ahead of time.) Remember, typing is required!

The movie can be old or new. For some movie suggestions, ask me, check with me ahead of time about a selection you are considering, or look in these links for suggestions.

Here are two links where you can find movie suggestions:

<http://highschoolbioethics.georgetown.edu/bibliographies/BioethicsMoviesListTable.pdf>

<http://www.carroll.edu/msmillie/bioethics/moviesonbioethics.htm>

You may combine any of the extra credit opportunities to reach a maximum of 30 points or you may complete all of your extra credit in one category. **Email all submissions to me by midnight on the last day class (not the last day of final exams).**



### Written Assignment Grading Sheets

Name:

General Criteria	Points Possible	Points Received
Presented information that demonstrated knowledge of support	2	
Provided supporting evidence proving that support existed in the text	2	
Presented information that demonstrated knowledge of opposition	2	
Provided supporting evidence proving that opposition existed in the text	2	
Presented personal opinion either in support of opposition of topic	2	
Defended personal opinion (either in support or opposition) with textual evidence	2	
Terminology/vocabulary (Does the paper utilize appropriate bioethical terminology?)	2	
Content (How well the information addresses the assignment)	2	
Grammar and spelling	2	
Written assignment instructions (Does the paper follow instructions listed in syllabus?)	2	
Used correct citations	3	
Provided annotated bibliography	2	
Totals	25	

Comments:

### Group Member Individual Review

Grade of 0 indicates complete failure to achieve the objective

Grade of 1 indicates partial success

Grade of 2 indicates complete success in achieving the stated objective

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Name	Name	Name	Name	Name	Objective
						Contributed a website or information as a resource for the project
						Electronically (or otherwise) available for group work
						Provided constructive input throughout the project
						Worked well with team members on this project
						Participated throughout the project and was actively involved
						Overall (total of above scores – maximum of 10)

**Required** – Written summary to justify answers above:

## Final Project Group Review Sheets

Grade of 0 indicates complete failure to achieve the objective

Grade of 1 indicates partial success

Grade of 2 indicates complete success in achieving the stated objective

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Objective
					Followed directions for assignment
					Accessibility of project
					Ease of navigating through project
					Relevance to ethical dilemmas of today
					Easy to understand language throughout
					Applicability of Ethical Code to any profession
					Maintained audience interest
					Focused on professional and personal accountability/responsibility
					Visual international elements including incorporation of international codes of ethics
					Creativity
					Overall Presentation (total of above scores – maximum of 20)

**Required** – Written summary to justify answers above:

## Final Project Group Review Sheets

Grade of 0 indicates complete failure to achieve the objective

Grade of 1 indicates partial success

Grade of 2 indicates complete success in achieving the stated objective

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group 6	Group 7	Group 8	Group 9	Group 10	Objective
					Followed directions for assignment
					Accessibility of project
					Ease of navigating through project
					Relevance to ethical dilemmas of today
					Easy to understand language throughout
					Applicability of Ethical Code to any profession
					Maintained audience interest
					Focused on professional and personal accountability/responsibility
					Visual international elements including incorporation of international codes of ethics
					Creativity
					Overall Presentation (total of above scores – maximum of 20)

**Required** – Written summary to justify answers above: