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