Paper II: Medical Advances

Due November 13, 2008

Write a 2-3 page (typed, single- or 1 ½ - spaced) paper on some new medical advance, and on its implications. For instance, you might write about cloning animals with tissue (such as a heart or ligaments) that are genetically designed to be safely transferable to you, or about curing genetic defects of infants in vitro, or about designing medicines or treatments to increase lifespan dramatically, or any similar medical advance.

You should find at least two references describing the advance (in journals, magazines or newspapers). In your paper you should describe the medical technique and its possible advantages and disadvantages. In addition, you should use this particular medical advance as an illustration as you address the following questions:

- Is there a limit to the extent to which technology should be used to improve human health or lifespan?
- If so, how does one determine the limit, and who should determine it and for whom should it be determined (should it be for each individual, or for all society)?
- If not, then are all technological advances ethical and valid?

Your opinions are, of course, your own and there is no “right answer” to the questions. However, you should be able to describe the rationale for your position in a logical, sensible manner.

In your paper you should reference the articles you used (in a normal, APA-type format), and give the information on the articles and other sources of information in a bibliography at the end of the paper. (The bibliography is not a part of the length of the paper.)

You will be graded on the basis of the depth of understanding displayed in your responses to the points above, and on the mechanics of the paper (i.e. grammar, references, spelling, etc). Late papers will lose 10% off the starting point for the grade for each week that they are late. Remember that you need to achieve an average of 70% for the three papers in order to pass the class.