Overview
Science is not practiced in a vacuum and science changes the way we live. Consequently, the potential for conflict between science issues and moral issues is inescapable. Identifying and dealing with such potential conflicts is not a straight-forward matter. This course will try to give you the necessary tools to do so.

The course will be roughly divided into four parts. First, you will be exposed to the nature of philosophical inquiry and to the tools of the trade: the logic of argumentation. Second, you will be introduced to some central issues in moral theory. Four and last, we will apply what we've learned to a selection of current moral dilemmas that lay at the interface between science and ethics.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes
- Develop understanding of how researchers come to hold the values they proclaim;
- Appreciation of the method by which these values influence practical research activity of scientists and medical doctors;
- Understanding of the differences in value systems, both within the western tradition and between it and non-western cultures; i.e. issues of autonomy;
Understanding the dilemmas of moral choice affecting researchers in a biotechnical society;

By the conclusion of the course you will hopefully improve in three skills, demonstrated in your oral participation in class discussion, oral presentations, and in your writing assignments: (1) exposition of text, (2) reconstruction of argument, and (3) critical evaluation of argument.

Support Services and Disabilities Services
A. Since this course requires a certain amount of writing, you are encouraged to use the UAF Writing Center as needed for assistance with the mechanics of writing, grammar review, etc. The Writing Center is located on the 8th floor of the Gruening Building.
B. You should also be aware that the UAF Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities staff (located at 203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.
C. Students having difficulties of a personal nature that interfere with normal completion of course requirements may speak with the instructor as warranted, consult a Faculty Advisor at the UAF Academic Advising Center (Gruening Building, 5th floor), or see a counselor at the UAF Center for Health and Counseling (Whitaker Building).

Course Policies
A. Attendance: Students are expected to attend class regularly and actively participate in discussion of the assigned readings. Students having more than three unexcused absences may, at the discretion of the instructor, forfeit all class participation points.
B. Withdrawal: As established by the university, the last day for student-initiated and faculty-initiated withdrawals (W grade appears on academic record) is Friday, October 27. Students whose participation is determined by the instructor to be less than required by assignments due and attendance will be withdrawn from the course.
C. Incomplete Grades: Students should consult with the course instructor and/or their faculty advisor well in advance of final examination week to establish that an incomplete grade for the course
is warranted. Students must have been performing minimally at "C" level and completed more than 50% of the required coursework to warrant an incomplete.

**D, Late Assignments:** assignments are to be submitted when due unless previous arrangement has been made with the instructor. Due dates may be extended when there are justified mitigating circumstances.

**Requirements**
Readings for each class will be assigned in advance. You will be expected to critically study this material before class (i.e. read it seriously enough to be able to participate in class discussions by answering and having questions regarding this material). My lectures will not repeat the reading material but critically analyze and supplement it. Attendance to class is mandatory and class participation is highly recommended.

**Text**
There is no text for this course. The readings for each class will be available in advance, at the Rasmuson's Library eRes (http://eres.uaf.edu/default.asp).

**Evaluation**
- **Two Exams (33% each)** These exams will respond to questions that will require the application of the material discussed in class. These exams will be about four weeks apart and refer to the material discussed in their particular (+/-) four week period. An initial writing sample will be required (see below).

- **Final Exam/Presentation (34%)** This exam will cover material of the entire course. Whether it will be a presentation or an in-class exam or a take-home, will be decided after I get an idea of how well you do in the different formats.