Section 3 – Daniel DiSalvo, professor, City College of New York-CUNY

Monday, July 2, 2011—Bioethics

9:00 am to Noon: Overview of Bioethics and Governance

- Selections from Bacon and Descartes
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, “The Birthmark”

*Questions:*
1. The premises and methods of modern science contrast starkly with those that normally animate ethical and political reasoning. What challenges might these tensions pose for the governance of the practice of medicine, scientific research, and the uses of biotechnology? How should citizens and public officials respond to these tensions?

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm: Speaker
Juan Williams, Fox News political analyst

Tuesday, July 3, 2011—Bioethics section schedule

9:00 am to Noon: Abortion

Scientific Dimensions


Normative Dimensions

**Questions:**

1. Is it necessary first to identify the boundaries of the moral and legal community (i.e., to designate who is and is not entitled to moral care and legal protection) before one can think about the appropriate law and policy for abortion? If so, who should decide this question of membership, and according to what criteria?

**12:30 pm to 2:30 pm: Lunch with Robert Kagan, senior associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

**Wednesday, July 4, 2011— Bioethics**

9:00 am to Noon: Stem Cell Research/Cloning for Biomedical Research


**Questions:**

1. The dominant public question in this debate has been about whether or not federal funding should be provided for research involving the use and destruction of living human embryos. How does this issue differ (if at all) from the question of whether embryonic stem cell research should be pursued in the first instance?

**Thursday, July 5, 2011— Bioethics** section schedule

9:00 am to Noon: Organ Donation and Transplantation

- Richard Selzer, “Whither Thou Goest”
- Gilbert Meilaender, “Organ Procurement: What are the Questions?”
  http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/pcbe/background/meilaender_organs.html
  http://bioethics.georgetown.edu/pcbe/background/onthebody_phil_and_legal.html

**Questions:**

1. Do you own your body? What does “ownership” or “property” mean in this context?
2. What do you make of the concern that organ markets would lead to a uniquely pernicious form of exploitation of the poor?

Evening activity: screening and discussion of Gattaca

**12:30 pm to 2:30 pm:** Lunch with Christopher DeMuth, Senior Scholar Hudson Institute

Friday, July 6, 2011—Bioethics section schedule

9:00 am to Noon: End-of-Life Decision Making (including declining life-sustaining treatment, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia) (Duques 361)

General Reflections:


**Decisions Regarding Life-Sustaining Measures**

- The President’s Council on Bioethics, Taking Care: Ethical Caregiving in Our Aging Society (2005), Chapter 3

**Physician-Assisted Suicide**

- Leon Kass, “Why Doctors Must Not Kill” (presented as the American College of Surgeons Lecture on Ethics and Philosophy, which was inaugurated on October 23, 1991; http://www.facs.org/education/ethics/kasslect.html)

**Questions:**

How do the interests of incompetent patients differ (if at all) from those who are competent, in the context of end-of-life decision making?

1. Should it matter, morally or legally, why a person declines or withdraws life-sustaining measures?

2. Is it possible to distinguish the administration of a lethal drug (in the context of assisted suicide or euthanasia) and withdrawing life-sustaining measures? Is there a moral difference? Should the law treat these differently?

**2:00 pm to 4:00 pm:** Speaker—

John Walters, former Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy