

Reading Questions for March 6

These questions cover part of a chapter by Patrick Boleyn-Fitzgerald called “Experimentation on Human Subjects.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This week, we’re looking at the question of whether human experimentation on human subjects is morally acceptable. We’ll be reading through this chapter by Boleyn-Fitzgerald and also be looking at some case studies.

*Questions:*

1. In the first couple of sections, “Scandalous Research in the Twentieth Century” and “Basic Principles of Research Ethics” (410-3), Boleyn-Fitzgerald runs through a series of scandalous experiments on humans and then discusses some codes that people created in light of these scandals. What were some of the scandalous experiments? What professional codes were created in light of them?
2. In the section titled “Respect for Persons” (413-5) Boleyn-Fitzgerald outlines what respect for persons involves, according to the Belmont Report. How has the principle of respect for persons traditionally been understood? Do you agree with this principle? And how do you think it should be understood? Why?