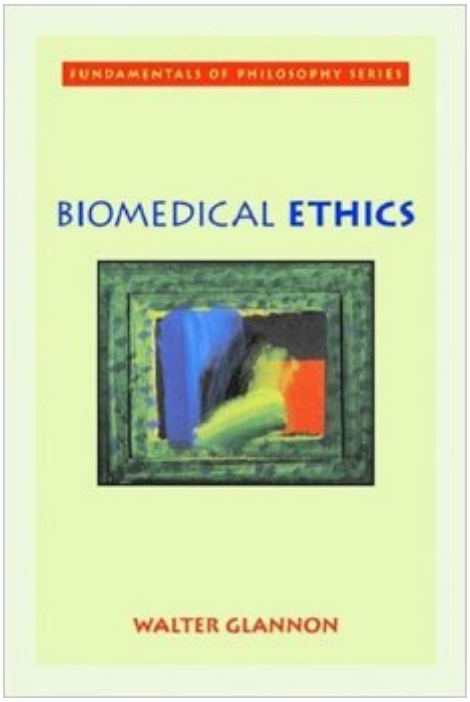
Biomedical Ethics (Fundamentals Of Philosophy Series)



Synopsis

Today, advances in medicine and biotechnology occur at a rapid pace and have a profound impact on our lives. Mechanical devices can sustain an injured person's life indefinitely. Computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans of the body and brain can reveal disorders before symptoms appear. Genetic testing of embryos can predict whether people will have diseases earlier or later in life. It may even become possible to clone human beings. These and other developments raise difficult ethical questions. Biomedical Ethics is an engaging philosophical introduction to the most important ethical positions and arguments in six areas of biomedicine: the patient-doctor relationship, medical research on humans, reproductive rights and technologies, genetics, medical decisions at the end of life, and the allocation of scarce medical resources. Concisely capturing the historical, contemporary, and future-oriented aspects of the field, author Walter Glannon discusses both perennial issues in medicine, such as doctors' duties to patients, and recent and emerging issues in scientific innovation, including gene therapy and cloning. Ideal for undergraduate courses in contemporary moral problems, introduction to ethics, and introduction to bioethics, Biomedical Ethics is accessible to students who have little or no background in ethical theory, medicine, or biotechnology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had my own rather nasty tangle with the margins of biomedical ethics last year. As a result, a lot of my online reading has been spent diving deeper in some of the ethical issues around medical

research, pregnancy, premature babies, and intervention guidelines. I decided to pick this book up to try to give myself some background to the debate, so that I feel like I can be a more educated participant. That makes me a rather odd reader of this book, I suspect. It seems obvious that it was intended as a classroom text-- probably a class in Ethics 101 or something similar. I am unable to evaluate this as an ethics textbook.The book is divided into a series of sections, each with its own focus on a particular ethical issue. I got most of the things that I needed out of the first chapter-- a short introduction to the histories and theories of biomedical ethics. Glannon does a concise and clear job of explaining the relevant frameworks and terminology. The book was worth the money to me for that alone.The other chapters go on to place ethical issues into the framework that Glannon develops. Subjects include: patient-doctor relationships, human medical research, reproductive rights, genetics, end of life decisions, and medical rationing. I found the treatment of these subjects largely superficial, and were primarily useful to me as they contained pointers to further reading in the area.I found the text as well written as this kind of thing can get without actually having any real flair behind it. As I said before, Glannon is clear and concise in the way he approaches the subjects. At times I had the feeling that he was presenting his opinion as established ethical principles, but am not really knowledgeable enough in the area to be sure that this is true.I got out of it what I had hoped that I would get.

This was required reading for my biomedical ethics course. I enjoyed the book, it gave a good overview of the ethical issues inherent in the medical field today, and I definitely saved a lot of money by reading this instead of a full textbook. It references many popular ethicists and is a good starting point for delving into the field of biomedical ethics. I recommendâ ‹ this quick read for any aspiring medical doctor.

I picked up this book to help with a few classes I took in University, as well as for personal reference. It is a concise reference to contemporary bioethics and does an excellent job of reviewing and summarizing all major topics. Additionally, unlike most philosophers, Glannon’s writing is very clear and easy to understand. I would recommend this to anyone who is looking for a summary or reference to bioethics, or as an introduction to the topic.

Premed graduating with a BS in Chem (’11) writing my personal statement and taking the MCAT. Bought this book on whim before my MCAT. It has been invaluable in teaching me logical reasoning behind the actions we take. The first chapter clearly outlines in a concise manner basic vocabulary

and logic I needed to transition to the second chapter. Reading the first two chapters alone helped improve my writing skill and logical thought process. Granted the MCAT no longer has a writing section as of 2013, yet its lack of current relevance will be made up later in my career.The book has such a great summary of bioethics that will be useful and quick to read. Ie high yield/value material. I am certainly taking this with me when I go off to med school.

I had to buy this for my Biomedical Ethics Philosophy class. It had a lot of good information but after awhile I felt like he was just talking in circles to the point of annoying and I found myself barely getting through the chapters. However, I didn't have a choice if I wanted to pass the class.