**M2 Elective**

**Title:** The “Story” of Reproductive Health Ethics  
**Catalogue No.:**

**Faculty:**  
Toby Schonfeld, PhD (Medicine)  
Jennifer Goedken, MD (Gyn/Ob)

This elective is designed for *(check all that apply)*:

- Students planning to go into this specialty.  
- Students exploring this specialty as a future career.  
- Students not planning to specialize in this career.  
- [ ] All Emory Med Students

**Number of Students:** 2-10  
**Late Update:**

**Elective Description:**  
This elective will incorporate narrative material to help convey the “story” implicit in the ethical dimensions of reproductive health issues. For each of the focus areas listed below, students will be expected to read associated texts which will act as a spring board to discussion of the topic. Class sessions will also include the use of movie pieces and other narrative instruments to highlight the pertinent aspects of each topic.

This elective will include three focus areas and a primary narrative resource for each area. Those pairings are as follows:

1. **Values Clarification** – Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*  
2. **Global Clinical Practice** – Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn, *Half the Sky*  
3. **Research involving Women as Participants** – Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Two seminars will be devoted to each topic. In the first seminar, students will be assigned traditional journal articles and the conversation will emerge from that context. In the second seminar in each area, students and faculty facilitators will engage the primary narrative text, as well as additional material that is inspired by the work.

**Educational Objectives:**  
Upon completion of this elective, students will be able to:

- Analyze their personal and professional values with respect to issues in reproductive medicine;  
- Identify the clinical and ethical issues inherent in practicing medicine in developing countries;  
- Suggest ways to overcome ethical and practical barriers to conducting research involving women participants, both domestically and globally.
**FORMAL TEACHING SESSIONS:**

This elective will be seminar-style and will meet on 6 selected Friday afternoons. Students will spend 12 hours in seminar (2 hours/seminar); students will be expected to complete readings and/or activities in advance and come prepared for discussion. Seminars may also include facilitation by guest faculty experienced in each of the focus areas. The final 3-hour session will be devoted to student presentations.

**OTHER TEACHING SESSIONS:**
N/A

**RESOURCES:**

NYU Literature and Medicine Database: [http://litmed.med.nyu.edu/Main?action=new](http://litmed.med.nyu.edu/Main?action=new)

**EVALUATION METHOD(S):**

Students will investigate, reflect on and give a presentation of a case/topic in reproductive health ethics at the completion of the elective. While we are primarily using stories as the narrative vehicle, students are encouraged to engage a variety of media in the medical humanities to elicit and address ethical issues. Student performance will be assessed on this project and presentation, as well as on participation throughout the elective.

**ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE INFORMATION:**