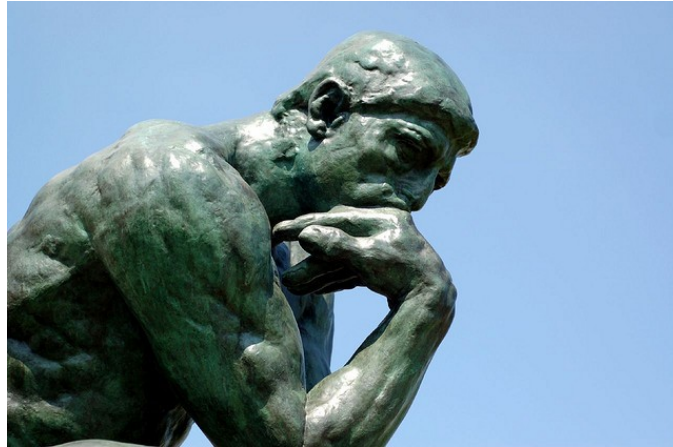


LECTURE 2: SCIENTIFIC ETHICS

Assigned Readings:

To be announced in lecture.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/seatbelt67/502255276/>

Course Understandings that this lecture targets:

- Students will understand that science matters because many human decisions (at all levels from individual to governmental) and personal ethics are based on scientific understanding. There are consequences to the natural environment from lifestyle choices in the 21st century that could threaten sustainability for life on Earth. (H)

Students will know that:

1. When determining the ethical implications of an issue, many different areas need to be considered, including philosophical/theological perspectives, legal requirements, as well as what is known from science and medicine.
2. The foundation of ethics is the concept of the dignity of the human person: humans have inherent rights by just being human, irrespective of value to society or dependency on others.
3. When considering an ethical argument, the foundational values should be considered using both telological (what is the goal?) and deontological (what is the duty?) methods: human dignity, truthfulness, considering all the data, consequences matter, and the common good.
4. Ethical scientific research must include all the facts in a study.
5. Consent must be given in research on human subjects and the research must respect basic human rights.

Students will be able to:

1. Explain why Science is only one way of knowing and can only deal with empirical evidence.
2. Give examples of why an ethical foundation is both desirable and necessary to apply scientific knowledge for the greater good of humanity.
3. Use ethical principles (human dignity, autonomy, tell the truth, informed consent, justice, and the common good) as a general guide for choosing an ethical action when applied to a specific case.