

Lesson 10

Notes

5 Basic Questions That Frame Any Approach To Bioethics

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Four Principles of Bioethics

1. Autonomy—

2. Beneficence—

3. Justice—

4. Nonmaleficence—

5. Human Rights--

6. Care for the Vulnerable--

Abortion

General Statistics

- The _____ most common surgical procedure
- Since, Roe v. Wade in 1973, abortions have risen from 775,000 to 1.6 million annually
- That is about _____ pregnancies

Legal History

- _____
 - Essentially stopped the government's ability to stop abortion

- Even late pregnancy abortions cannot be prohibited if doctor certifies that abortion is necessary to preserve the mother's health
- Divided pregnancy into "trimesters"
- First Trimester: _____
 - States can make _____ regulations regarding abortion
- Second Trimester: _____
 - States may choose to regulate abortion procedures in ways related to maternal health
 - States still can make _____ regulations with respect to the fetus
- Third Trimester: _____
 - Looks like it permits states to protect fetus after "viability" but renders it virtually impossible
 - Says, "the State...may, if it chooses, regulate, and even prohibit abortion except where it is necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the mother"
- _____
 - Determined "mother's health" should be interpreted the broadest possible way
 - Said interpretation could include psychological, emotional, and family-related
 - But all pregnancies affect a woman's mental state, emotions and family relationships
 - So, Doe v. Bolton offers legal cover for abortion on demand to the last day of a pregnancy
- _____
 - Prohibited states from requiring a father's consent
 - Prohibited states from requiring parents of a pregnant minor to consent
 - Prohibited states from outlaw the saline solution technique in second trimester abortions
 - Gave physicians great latitude on choosing what to do with an undesired baby who is born alive during an abortion procedure
- _____
 - Shifted focus of abortion regulation to the state level
 - Allowed (but did not require states to:
 - Prohibit public employees from performing abortions except to save mother's life
 - Refuse public funding for abortion counseling

- Prohibit public officials from encouraging abortion if not necessary to save mother's life
 - Mandate tests to determine viability of baby more than 20 weeks old
- _____
 - A ban outlawing the procedure was signed into law by President Bush on November 5, 2003
- _____
 - Could require parental consent for a minor's abortion
 - Require a waiting period between obtaining an abortion and what is informed consent
 - It moved from a trimester framework and replaced with pre- and post-viability tests for constitutional interest
- _____
 - Discusses the pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions
 - Returned the legality of abortion to the state level

Key Terms

Types of Abortions

- Spontaneous—

- Induced—

- Therapeutic—

- Eugenic—

- Elective—

- Zygote—

- Embryo—

- Fetus—

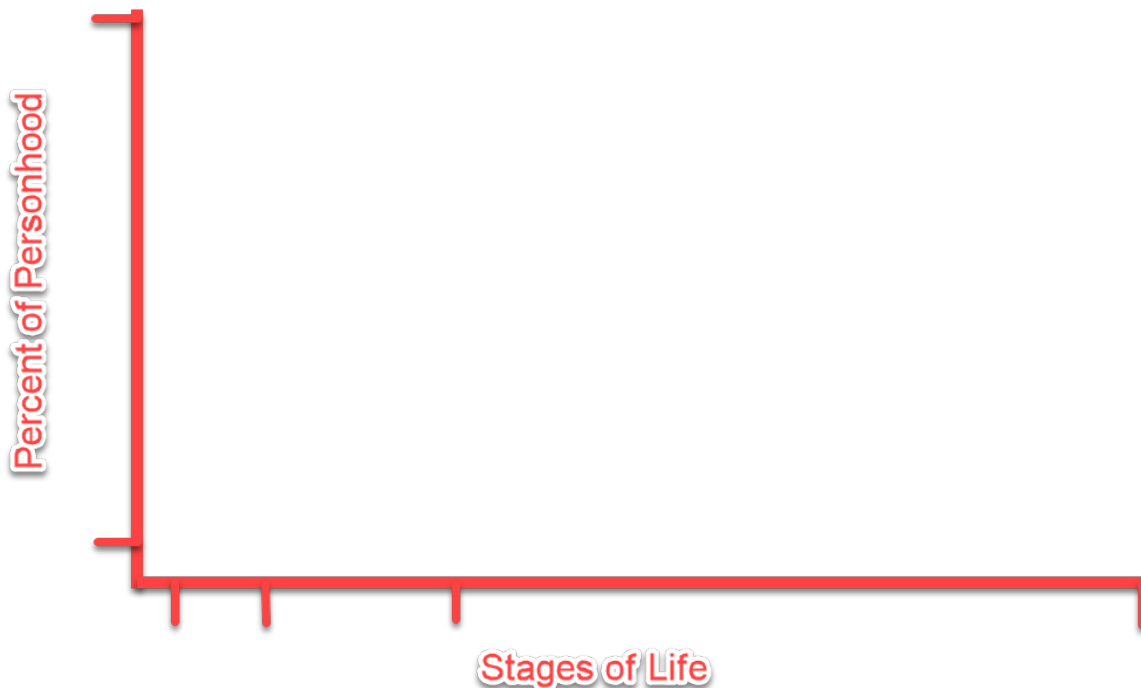
- Viability—

When Does Human Life Begin

Developmental View

- A person evolves over time
- Personhood is achieved in social interaction, does not begin at conception
- Not full person until fully capable of social interaction

- Must achieve criteria such as: conscious thought, aware of things external to self, able to feel pain, able to reason, capable of self-motivated activity
- Objections
 - Bases personhood on arbitrary stipulations, so who chooses
 - If one can choose any set of stipulations, then any category of human life can be excluded
 - Arguments would justify euthanasia, genocide, killing the handicapped
 - Could ignore the poor, sick, uneducated, because they are less of a person



Essentialist View

- Personhood is fundamentally linked to the biological presence of human life
- Personhood is the essential aspect of human life
- Emphasizes species-specific DNA is present at fertilization
- Personhood begins at conception
- Objections
 - Seems to make the value of persons depend on chemical values

- If persons are souls, this would mean large number of souls are never born
- Identical twins usually do not split until second week

Techniques of Abortion

Non-Surgical

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Surgical

- _____
 - Used about 20 % of 1st trimester abortions
 - The cervix is dilated and the uterine wall is scraped
- _____
 - Used for about 80% of 1st trimester abortions
 - The cervix is dilated and a suction tube is inserted into womb
 - The suction tears the fetus from the womb
- _____
 - Most common for 2nd trimester abortions
 - Needle is inserted into the amniotic sac and some fluid is removed and replaced with a concentrated salt solution
 - The fetus is slowly poisoned
- _____
 - Most common for 3rd trimester abortions
 - Same procedure as cesarean but with different outcomes
 - Physician is permitted great latitude if the fetus remains alive after being taken from the womb

Moral Issues To Consider

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Rape and Incest

- This is a debate between both sides
- Both sides recognize the seriousness and brutality and violence of rape and incest crimes
- Both sides want to seek to help the victims and punish the criminals
- **Arguments to permit for rape or incest**

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- **Arguments against permitting for rape or incest**

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