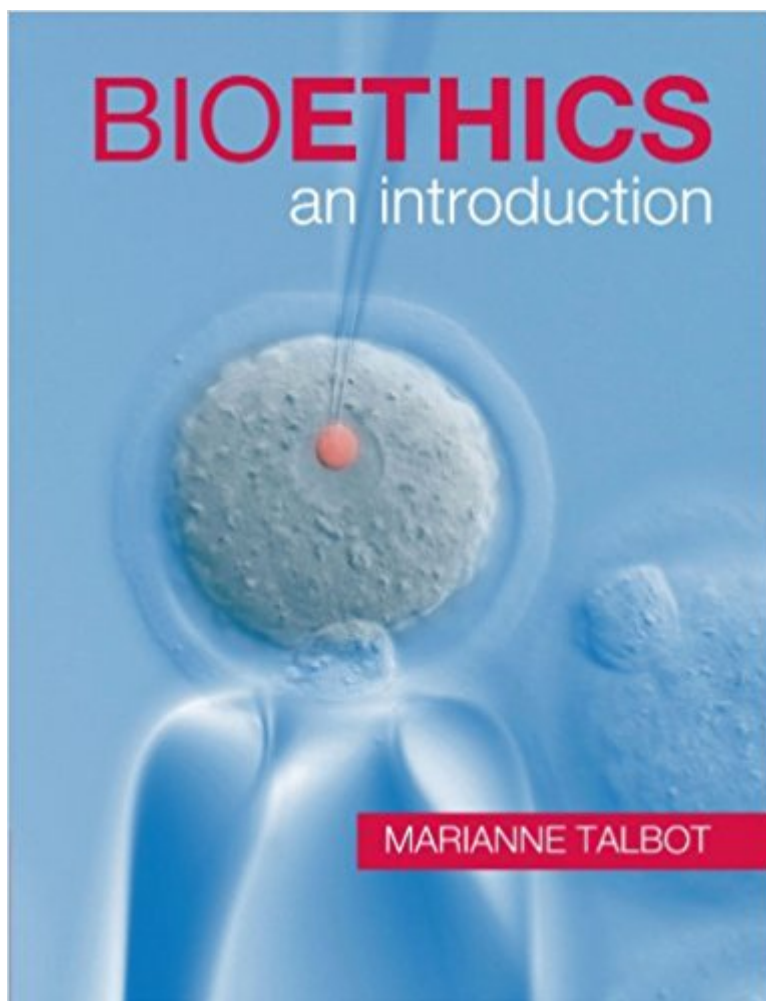


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# Bioethics: An Introduction



## Synopsis

Providing readers with the confidence needed to debate key issues in bioethics, this introductory text clearly explains bioethical theories and their philosophical foundations. Over 250 activities introduce topics for personal reflection, and discussion points encourage students to think for themselves and build their own arguments. Highlighting the potential pitfalls for those new to bioethics, each chapter features boxes providing factual information and outlining the philosophical background, along with detailed case studies that offer an insight into real-life examples of bioethical problems. Within-chapter essay questions and quizzes, along with end-of-chapter review questions, allow students to check their understanding and to broaden their thinking about the topics discussed. The accompanying podcasts by the author (two of whose podcasts on iTunesU(TM) have attracted over 3 million downloads) explain points that might be difficult for beginners. These, along with a range of extra resources for students and instructors, are available at [www.cambridge.org/bioethics](http://www.cambridge.org/bioethics).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is an excellent, unique and comprehensive resource for either an undergraduate or a graduate course. With its wonderful introduction into ethical theory and a multifaceted approach, it is an incomparable resource for the successful teaching of bioethics. The author's eloquent writing ... carefully examines practically every aspect of [this] exciting interdisciplinary [field] ... a valuable reading of interest for both students and scholar[s], alike." Mirjana Brockett, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta "I do not know of a better introduction and I suspect that it may become the

standard text for years to come. It aims to give a sound introduction to people who have had little or no experience of ethics or philosophy, and it does so in a lively, rich and very readable way. Most important of all, it tries to engender a genuinely philosophical approach: fair-minded, rational and critical ... a freshness and clarity that will stimulate thinking and discussion even amongst the most jaded students. I feel confident that nurses with the skills of reasoning and the fairness of mind that Bioethics: An Introduction is designed to provide will bring credit to themselves, to their patients and to the health services within which they work." Dr Trevor Hussey, Nursing Times

"This textbook is well-organized and written clearly, discussing each topic in sufficient depth to give readers a solid introduction to the questions raised. The philosophical approach not only guides readers through critical analysis of the topics presented, but also prepares them to analyze and construct arguments for the questions biotechnology raises in the future." Jiin-Yu Chen, The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine

"... admirably accessible and organised ... this book not only makes learning about profound topics easier and more interesting, but it provides lessons for instructors to become more effective teachers." The Quarterly Review of Biology

This accessible introduction clearly explains bioethical issues and their philosophical foundations to science students, providing them with the confidence needed to debate important issues in the ethics of biotechnology. Written informally, including over 200 activities, detailed case studies and explanatory podcasts, it encourages students to formulate and evaluate their own arguments.

Students of bioethics, regardless of their level of experience, will benefit greatly from Marianne Talbot's recently-published book, Bioethics: An Introduction. For those new to the field, the author provides, in the introductory chapters of the book, a review of philosophical foundations (virtue ethics, deontology, utilitarianism, etc.) that provides valuable perspective for the topics that follow. Also, Ms. Talbot discusses the logic and morality that underlie the identification and evaluation of arguments, which is a skill that pervades all fields of philosophy. It is worth noting in this regard that Ms. Talbot's iTunesU podcast on The Nature of Arguments has been downloaded over 3 million times. For the more experienced student of bioethics, Ms. Talbot's book provides the latest information regarding current and hotly-debated bioethical issues ranging from reproductive cloning to assisted suicide for the terminally ill. In addition to an informative discussion of beginning-of-life and end-of-life matters, the author also provides thought-provoking discussions regarding human enhancement, protection and privacy of bio-information, "ownership" aspects of bodily organs, genetic modification of food, animal rights and other subjects of importance. Throughout the book

there are case studies providing real-world examples of the topics under discussion as well as activities to encourage deeper thinking and to enhance analytical skills regarding the matters discussed. Lastly, the author provides lists of further reading resources and useful websites at the end of each chapter. I highly recommend this very readable and most informative text.

Never before has humanity had so much power over nature. And never before has there been as much need to think about that clearly and ethically. One of the stated goals of Marianne Talbot's *Bioethics: An Introduction* is to help readers do just that: to come to their own considered positions on some of the many-sided problems raised by new biotechnology. It does that well, while informing the reader of some startling new developments. Designed as a textbook, it includes many exercises to help one think through them. It is a rigorous philosophical workout if one goes through them all. After doing that, my own positions were clarified and deepened, with a few surprises along the way. So it is a book well worth the time and effort.

great book.

Clarified nicely! Great resource! Thank you!

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