

# Biological Sciences First Year Seminar on Research Ethics

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## American Post-War Research Scandals

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Remember that your **Reading Response #1** is due by Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00PM (noon) via TurnItIn. This write up should contain brief answers to these questions, totalling 500–600 words in length and conforming to the to the course's "General Technical Requirements for Formatting Assignments". Be sure to also print out a copy of your response for your own reference. This will help prepare you to speak intelligently about these issues during our next class meeting.

### Readings

- John D. Arras, "Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital Case".
- James H. Jones, "The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment".

### Questions

1. What reasons did Drs. Southam and Mandel provide to justify their decisions when conducting their research at the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital? What are the key concerns they believe that physicians should consider when determining what to tell their patients about a proposed treatment or research project?
2. Why is the Board of Regents not satisfied with these justifications? What does this board claim that Drs. Southam and Mandel have done wrong? What are the values or considerations that it takes to be paramount in evaluating this case?
3. What reasons did the researchers provide to justify their decisions when conducting their research for the Tuskegee syphilis experiment? Why did they argue that it was permissible continue the study even after a cure for syphilis had been discovered?
4. According to James Jones, what were the central moral failings of the Tuskegee study? Was racism a determinate one?