

Ethics Discussion Assignment

1. Read the following articles submitted by other students. For each article, write a 1-paragraph reaction. Submit these reactions in your Google Drive before class.
2. Review your discussion questions for your article and come to class prepared to give a brief summary of your article and lead a discussion on it.

Alex

https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/the-city/years-before-1st-fleet-week-navy-quietly-sprayed-s-f-with-germs/article_56584854-4a8a-11ed-8de0-7f28505ccfe9.html

What I bring to the class discussion is the notorious "Operation Sea-Spray," a 1950 U.S. Navy experiment where bacteria (*Serratia marcescens* and *Bacillus globigii*) were secretly sprayed over San Francisco to test the city's vulnerability to a bioweapon attack. Even though initially the bacteria was considered as harmless. The bacteria should only give a indication for infection or not, Yet eventually, this covert test led to a public outbreak of infections and even a death case. And it also produced a big panic within the local health community. This incident produced a significant ethical and safety concern. Interestingly, the punishment for the project was stopped for reasons of national security.

Tess

https://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?pid=S1665-11462020000400166&script=sci_arttext&tlng=en

This article dives deeply into the effects of colonialism and Western thinking on our modern day systems. The author discusses the effects of Western ideology on every aspect of our lives - healthcare, socialization, and scientific research. They argue that capitalism drives science, and hence, is corrupt in its goal and its achievements. The author explains how the modern western paradigm (MWP) is determined to be the 'correct way' of interacting with nature - to use and then destroy it. This article is especially relevant to a university physics course, as content and curriculum is largely based on Western approaches to science.

Sasha

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-is-the-future-of-fusion-energy/>
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14XcTNKR2CdgZHTulvTsSZdpBh0SylsmR/view?usp=sharing>)

Fusion energy is a fable which is slowly becoming reality which many are starting to flaunt as the savior we need in our climate and energy crisis. However, the limits of the technology mean development to feasibility is far out, pushing us to work towards other methods of energy production. Additionally, material issues mean there are many practical problems pertaining to the function and lifetime of such reactors since putting a miniature sun in a torus and using magnets to contain it is not the most simple design for energy production.