**GEY 4647: Book Review Assignment**

**Introduction to Assignment**

The history of research with human subjects is replete with ethical dilemmas and controversies. To develop a deeper knowledge about some of these ethical concerns, particularly when vulnerable people are involved, we will be reading and discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

**Assignment**

Your assignment is to write a book review that outlines and critically analyzes the ethical issues raised by the book, including a discussion of two of the classical ethical theories discussed in class (e.g., Utilitarianism, Deontology, Virtue Ethics, Ethics of Care/Feminist Ethics, Casuistry). If you choose to use external sources in your book review (remember you have a limited amount of space), please cite such sources in-text using either APA format and include a reference page, also in APA format. The reference page for your sources cited will not count toward the page limit.

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| Essentials for Writing a Book Review   * Do not confuse a book review with a book report. Books reviews briefly summarize the book (usually no more than a single paragraph) & then require you to critically analyze its relevant content/issues (in this case the ethical issues raised in the book). A book report gives basic details about characters, plot, and setting *only*. * You must read the entire book; you are only ready to begin writing once the reading is done. It is hard to have a very successful review without completely reading & understanding the book. You should consider the book as your main source for the review; outside research is generally not necessary. Ground your work in it and avoid “fluff” at all costs. * As you read you might want to think about the following questions:   - Who are the characters/ main people portrayed?  - What ethical themes are present in the book and how are they developed?  - What is the author trying to argue and how successful is that argument?  - Have you identified key points and passages/quotations?  - Why this work is important, novel, or significant?   * When considering strengths & weaknesses of the substantive issues (in this case ethical issues) for any book, you should focus your discussion on the actual content of the work, not whether you enjoyed reading it, its writing style, and/or its effect on your experience as a reader. Those items are about preferences, rather than reasoned and objective analyses. |