**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks E-Learning Assignment One**

*Many college classes will require you to spend a considerable amount of time online as you pursue your degree.*

*The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize you with the electronic learning environment.*

*In addition to this assignment, we will spend some class time reflecting on the experience. Specifically, how is online, independent studying different from studying in the classroom? How is it better and how is it worse? When you register for college classes, will you prefer classes that are face-to-face, online or hybrid?*

This assignment will take approximately **three hours** to complete. Completion of the assignment is mandatory and is part of your attendance. We will go over the information in the afternoon session.

*First*, read the description below.

*Second*, complete the “think and write”. This should take about 10 minutes.

*Third*, look at the vocabulary preview. Check any unfamiliar words in your dictionary. These will be important for understanding the lecture.

*Finally*, watch the lecture and answer the accompanying questions. Experiment with strategies that work for you. For example, read the questions first and then watch. Take notes as you listen. Watch 10 minutes, pause, retell what you have learned, continue. There are many ways you can approach this information. **It is not a good idea to watch the whole lecture and then look at the questions and rely solely on your memory; the lecture is more than one hour long.**

Henrietta Lacks and the Meaning of Death
Wednesday, February 20, 2013
01h: 13m:29s

In the course taught by Professor Pecorino on Death and Dying, Henrietta Lacks made a contribution. In exploring the many different meanings of human death the use made of the cancer cells from Henrietta Lacks illustrated the limitations of one approach to the meaning of human death. The presentation in this workshop will raise the issue of the concept of human death and its relation to pronouncing humans to be dead and to the relation of different criteria for human death to different uses for dead human bodies including the transplantation of organs and tissue.

“Henrietta Lacks and the Meaning of Death”, Speaker:  Dr. Philip Pecorino

<http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/tigermedia/detailView.aspx?MediaID=2174>

**Before watching**

*Think and write:* What is your definition of death?

*Vocabulary preview:*

morgue, autopsy, coma, life support equipment, corpse, D.O.A., body bag, undertaker, vegetative state, soul, organ donation

death/ dead/ die/ dying

life/ alive/ live

**I. Introduction**

What did you learn about Professor Pecorino’s background?

How long has he been teaching at QCC?

Would you like to take a course on Death and Dying?

**II. (17:30) “People can be thought to be dead who are really alive.”**

What reasons are given? (Why does this happen? How is this possible?)

Professor Pecorino presents many examples from newspaper articles to support this statement. Choose three examples and briefly summarize them.

1.

2.

3.

(28:02) Professor Pecorino says, “You do trust doctors, don’t you?” Why does he say this? What is his purpose?

**III. (37:50) Professor Pecorino begins his Powerpoint presentation on the definitions of death.**

Earlier, you answered this question: “What is your definition of death?” Review what you wrote.

How does the definition of death vary from state to state?

How does pregnancy affect the definition of death?

What are some “good purposes of keeping someone alive (who is clinically dead)”?

What does “irreversible coma” mean?

Professor Pecorino lists six types of death. Complete this list:

1. Social
2. Psychological
3. …
4. Theological
5. …
6. …

Considering these six areas, does Professor Pecorino consider Henrietta Lacks to be dead or alive?

Describe Aristotle’s three souls.

1.

2.

3.

Would Aristotle consider Henrietta Lacks to be dead or alive?

What do you think; is Henrietta Lacks dead or alive?

**IV. (59:20) After his lecture, the professor asks if there are any questions or comments.**

Do you think this is typical in American college classrooms?

If you were in the room, write one question you might ask.

Professor Pecorino discusses organ donation. What is your opinion of organ donation?

Why does Professor Pecorino recommend talking to your “next of kin” about organ donation?

An audience member states, “once your cells leave your body, you no longer (own them).” Do you agree or disagree with this law?

**Reflection:**

How well did you understand the lecture?

Was this topic interesting to you?

What do you think of watching video lectures compared to face-to-face lectures?