

Moravian College
Phil. 292Z: Medical Ethics
Spring 2008

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. William Falla
Phone: 610/821-8725 (W)
610/432-8711 (H)
e-mail: mnewsf01@moravian.edu

Course Description:

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the basic theory of bioethics as it is set in the broader field of moral philosophy. Contemporary ethical issues in biomedicine will be examined, and the student will learn to think ethically about them within the context of the current on going debate.

Course Objectives:

- A. To understand the field of biomedical ethics within the broader context of moral philosophy.
- B. To explore the development of biomedical ethical theory within the context of contemporary medical practice.
- C. To develop an appreciation for, and an understanding of, the ethical issues and problems facing biomedicine in the 21st Century.
- D. To develop a coherent and cogent methodology for addressing these issues and problems and to express it in both written and oral form.

Required Texts:

Beauchamp, Tom & Childress, James, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 5th edition, Oxford University Press, New York, 2001

Supplemental Materials

Articles and movies will be on reserve either electronically or in Reeves Library. Handouts and other materials will be made available as required.

Evaluation:

Your final course grade will be determined in the following manner:

Final Presentation (20%): You will be part of a group that will be asked to evaluate pertinent websites pertaining to a topic area in biomedicine that your group will be assigned. Sheets will be provided to guide you in your analysis. You will submit a 1-2 page Precis on the date indicated that will serve as the basis for a 15 minute in-class presentation. The Precis should be a complete summary of your presentation with attached bibliography and worksheets. You will be graded on your mastery of the course material as well as your written and oral presentations.

Reflection Papers/Case Studies (60%): There will be four (4) Papers/Case Studies due on the dates indicated in the syllabus. These are to be 3-5 page papers in which you are to respond to the question or situation that is posed. Your papers will be evaluated on your understanding of the issues, your ability to apply the course materials (ethical principles, theories, etc.) in your answer, the quality of your argumentation and presentation. These papers/case studies will be used as a basis for our class discussion.

Class Participation (20%): This includes both class attendance and your active participation in class discussions. A class such as this is predicated on class discussion so that this is an important component.

Grading Scale

92.5 - 100 = A

89.5 – 92.4 = A-

87.5 – 89.4 = B+

82.5 – 87.4 = B

etc.

All final grades are rounded to the nearest integer.

Honor Code/Attendance:

Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance contributes to your class participation and therefore is important. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements are made to make up all missed assignments or material. You are also expected to hand in all assignments at time. If you must be late with your work, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of the grade on late submitted work.

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in all their work. You will be found to have violated this obligation if you plagiarize or cheat. Any violation will result in the lowering of your grade. Plagiarizing is presenting the work of others as one's own; cheating is taking, giving or accepting illicit advantage for any course work inside or outside the classroom.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Jan.17: Introduction to Ethical Theory

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 1-25

Beauchamp, Tom, "A Defense of Common Morality", *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, v.13, #3, Sept. 2003, pp.259-73. (On reserve)

Jan. 24: Biomedical Ethics within Moral Philosophy

Beauchamp, Tom, "History and Theory in 'Applied Ethics'", *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, v. 17, #1, Mar. 2007, p.55-64. (On Reserve)

Sugarman, Jeremy, "Roles of Moral Philosophy in Appropriated Bioethics", *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, v.17, #1, Mar. 2007, p65-7 (On reserve).

Lebacqz, Karen, "Bioethics---Eleven Approaches", *Dialog*, v. 43:2, Summer 2004, 100-6. (electronic)

Jan.31 Systems of Conduct **Paper #1 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp.337-83

Feb.7: Systems of Virtue

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 26-51

Feb.14: Respect for Autonomy **Paper #2 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp.57-104

Cassell, Eric, "Unanswered Questions", *The Hastings Center Report*, Vol. 37, #5, Sept.-Oct. 2007, p.20-3 (electronic)

Feb. 21: Respect for Autonomy and Experimentation

Movie: *Awakenings*

Feb.28: Nonmaleficence **Paper #3 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 113-158

Mar.13: Nonmaleficence and Euthanasia

Cassell, Eric, "The Schaivo Case: A Medical Perspective", *Hastings Center Report*, v. 35, #3, May-June 2005:22-3. (electronic)

Movie: *The Sea Within*

Mar. 20: Justice **Paper #4 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 225-272

Mar. 27: Justice

Movie: *John Q*

Apr. 3: Professional-Patient Relationships

Beauchamp & Childress: pp.283-328

Apr. 10: Biotechnology I **Presentation Precis Due**

Hall, Stephen, "Stem Cells: A Status Report", *Hastings Center Report*, Vol. 36, #1, Jan.-Feb. 2006, 16-22. (electronic)

Johnson, Josephine, "Paying Egg Donors", *Hastings Center Report*, Vol. 36, #1, Jan.-Feb. 2006, 28-31.(electronic)

Apr. 17: Biotechnology II
Handouts

Apr. 24: Final Presentations