

**Moravian College**  
**Phil 259 Z/PM: Medical Ethics**  
**Spring 2010**

**Instructor:** The Rev. Dr. William Falla  
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**Office Hours:** Ham. 205: MWF 10:15-11:15; ½ hour before or after class, by appt.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the basic theories of biomedical ethics as it is set in the broader context of moral philosophy. Contemporary ethical issues will be examined and the student will learn to think ethically about them in 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 appreciation for, and understanding of, the ethical issues and problems facing biomedicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- D. To develop a coherent and cogent methodology for addressing these issues and problems; and to one's response in both written and oral form.

**Required Texts:**

Beauchamp, Tom & Childress, James, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 5th edition, Oxford University Press, 2001  
Jones, James, McCullough, Lawrence, & Richman, Bruce, *The Ethics of Surgical Practice*, Oxford University Press, 2008

**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:

**Research Paper** (20%): You will be to write a 6-8 page research paper based on one of the case studies in James et. al. that was not discussed or written about as part of the assigned class readings. In this paper, you should use Beauchamp and Childress as your ethical lens with which to view the case at hand and to evaluate Jones' response as

well as develop a solution of your own. Outside bibliographic materials must be used and bibliographic instruction will be provided. There will be specific dates given throughout the semester to submit topics and bibliographies. Your paper will be graded on the scope and utilization of your research (40%), the quality of your argumentation (40%) and the quality of your presentation (20%).

Reflection Papers/Case Studies (60%): There will be four (4) Papers 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 based on what is currently under discussion in class. Your papers will be evaluated on your understanding of the issues and your ability to apply the course materials to your answer as well as the quality of your argumentation and presentation. These papers 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.

### **Additional Aid/Consideration**

Students with special situations that may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Comenius Center Office or the Learning Center as soon as possible.

## COURSE SYLLABUS

- Jan. 21: Introduction to Ethical Theory  
Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 1-29
- Jan. 28: Traditional Ethical Theories I  
Beauchamp & Childress: 333-401
- Feb. 4: Moral Character & Status  
Beauchamp & Childress: pp.30-98
- Feb.11: Systems of Virtue **Paper #1 Due`**  
Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 26-51
- Feb.18: Respect for Autonomy  
Beauchamp & Childress: pp.99-149  
Jones et. al.: 12-16, 40-44
- Feb. 25: Nonmaleficence  
Beauchamp & Childress: 149-198
- Mar. 4 Beneficence **Paper #2 Due**  
Beauchamp & Childress: 197-239  
Jones et. al.: 326-30
- Mar.10: Spring Break
- Mar. 18: Justice  
Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 225-272
- Mar. 25: Professional- Patient Relationship **Paper #3 Due**  
Beauchamp & Childress: 288-332  
Jones et. al.: 150-9
- Apr. 1: Surgical Ethics- Introduction  
Jones et. al.: 1-11
- Apr. 8: Professional Self- Regulation  
Jones et al.: 52-70

Apr. 15: Innovative Surgery & Research      **Paper #4 Due**  
Jones et. al.: 101-7

Apr. 22: Surgery as Business  
Jones et.al.: 192-4, 201-11

Apr. 29: End of Life      **Final Paper Due**  
Jones et. al.: 295-302, 326-30  
Movie: *The Sea Inside*