

Moravian College
Phil 259 PM/Z: Medical Ethics
Spring 2013

Class: R: 6:30-9:30 PM

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. William Falla

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Office Hours: Com. 205: MWF 9:30-11:00; R: 2:00-3:00 PM 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 21st 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*, 7th edition, Oxford University Press, 2009

Supplemental Materials

Articles and movies will be on reserve either electronically or in Reeves Library. The four articles are available in PDF format through Academic Search Elite. Handouts and other materials will be made available as required.

Evaluation:

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

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.

Final Exam (20%): Like the medical decision, the attendant ethical decisions must be made quickly considering all the requisite information/materials available to the practitioner. In that light, the final exam will consist of case studies that you will be asked to analyze, delineate the issues and propose a viable solution that adequately addresses the issues that you raised. The evaluation criteria here will be the same as the Reflection Papers.

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

Traditional students who wish to request accommodations for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Asst. director of Learning Services for Academic and disability Support at 1307 Main St., or by calling 610-861-1510. Comenius Center students should contact Donna Smith, Dean of the Comenius Center, by calling 610-861-1400, or by

making an appointment to see her. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Jan. 17: Introduction to Ethical Theory

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 1-29

Jan. 24: Traditional Ethical Theories

Beauchamp & Childress: 351-385

Jan. 31: Moral Character & Status

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 30-94

Feb.7: Respect for Autonomy

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 101-141

Paper #1 Due`

Feb.14: Respect for Autonomy

Movie: *Awakenings*

Feb. 21: Nonmaleficence

Beauchamp & Childress: 150-193

Feb. 28: Beneficence

Beauchamp & Childress: 202-241

Paper #2 Due

Mar. 7: Spring Break

Mar.14: Justice

Beauchamp & Childress: 249-292

Mar. 21: Professional- Patient Relationships

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 225-272

Mar. 28: Introduction to Genetic Engineering

TBA

Paper #3 Due

Apr. 4: Case Study

Powell, Russell, "The Evolutionary Biological Implications of Human Genetic Engineering", *Journal of Medicine & Philosophy*, v.37, #3, June 2012

Apr. 11: Case Study

Powell, Russell and Buchanan, Allen, "Breaking Evolution's Chains: The Prospect of Deliberate Modification in Humans", *Journal of Medicine & Philosophy*, v.36, #1, February 2011

Apr.18: Case Study

Paper #4 Due

McConnell, Terrance, "Genetic Enhancement, Human Nature and Rights", *Journal of Medicine & Philosophy*, v. 35, # 4, August 2010

Apr. 25: Case Study

Koch, Tom, "Enhancing Who? Enhancing What? Ethics, Bioethics and Transhumanism", *Journal of Medicine & Philosophy*, v. 35, #6, December 2101

May 2: **Final Exam**