

Moravian College

Phil 259 PM/Z: Medical Ethics

Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. William Falla

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Office Hours: MWF 9:30-11:00; R 2:00-3:30, 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 issues will be examined and the student will learn 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 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 make 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

Sisti, Dominic, et. al. ,*Applied Ethics in Mental Health Care*, MIT Press, 2013

Additional Materials:

Articles and movies will be available either electronically or in hard copy in Reeves Library. Handouts will be available in class as required.

Evaluation:

Your final 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. They are to be 4-5 pages in length which will be developed from the material currently being studied. Your papers will be evaluated on the basis of your understanding of the issues, the ability to utilize the course material in your answer as well the quality of your argumentation and presentation.

Final Case Study (20%): This will be an in-depth case study (5-7 pages) in which you will be asked to analyze the ethical issues posed by a case study, select the major issue, propose a solution for that issue and provide a rationale for your analysis. You will choose your case study from several that will be provided. The evaluation for this will be the same as with the Reflection Papers. In addition you will meet with the instructor for a 15 minute discussion of your analysis.

Class Participation (20%): This includes class attendance and your active participation in the class discussions as well as raising pertinent questions to aid in the discussion.

Grading Scale:

92.5 += A

89.5 – 92.4= A-

87.5 – 89.4= B+

82.5 – 87.4= B

etc.

Honor Code/Attendance:

Students are expected to regularly attend classes Attendance contributes to your class participation and therefore is important. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements to make up all missed assignments/material. You are also expected to had in all assignments on 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 for the late submitted work.

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

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 making an appointment to see her. Accommodation can't be provided until formal authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Course Syllabus

Jan. 16: Introduction to Biomedical Ethics

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 1-29

Jan. 23: Traditional Ethical Theories

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 351-385

Jan. 30: Moral Character & Status

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 30-94

Feb. 6: Respect for Autonomy

Paper #1 Due

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 101-141

Feb. 13: Case Study: Autonomy

Movie: *Awakenings*

Feb. 20: Nonmaleficence

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 150-193

Feb. 27: Beneficence

Paper #2 Due

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 202-241

Mar. 6: **Spring Break**

Mar. 13: Justice

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 249-292

Mar. 20: Professional-Patient Relationships **Paper #3 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 302-340

Mar. 27: Ethics of Psychotherapy

Sisti: pp: 35-58

Apr. 3: Virtue Ethics in Psychotherapy
Sisti: pp. 59-73

Paper #4 Due

Apr. 10: Case Study
Movie: *A Beautiful Mind*

Apr. 17: Capacity, Coercion & Consent
Sisti: 79-115

Final Case Study

Apr. 24: Addiction
Sisti: pp. 179-211