

**Moravian College**

**Phil 259 PM/Z: Medical Ethics**

**Spring 2015**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Oxford University Press, 2009

Farah, Martha, *Neuroethics*, The MIT Press, 2010

**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 Exam (20%): The final exam will consist of two (2) case studies that will be chosen from several given. You are to analyze them for the issues they raise and discuss them in some detail. You will also propose and defend a solution. This is an open book/notes exam. Your answer will be evaluated on the quality of your argumentation, including your use of the course material with less emphasis on style than with the Reflection papers.

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 lower level, Monocacy Hall , or by calling 610-861-1401. 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. 22: Introduction to Biomedical Ethics

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 1-29

Jan. 29: Traditional Ethical Theories

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 351-385

Feb. 5: Moral Character & Status

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 30-94

Feb. 12: Respect for Autonomy

**Paper #1 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 101-141

Feb. 19: Case Study: Autonomy

Movie: *Awakenings*

Feb. 26: Nonmaleficence

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 150-193

Mar. 5: Beneficence

**Paper #2 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 202-241

Mar. 12: **Spring Break**

Mar. 19: Justice

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 249-292

Mar. 26: Professional-Patient Relationships **Paper #3 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 302-340

Apr. 2: Intro to Neuroethics

Farah: 1-10

Apr. 9: Better Brains

Farah: pp. 11-41, 73-78

Apr. 16: Brain, Self & Authenticity

Farah: pp. 79-87, 97-136

Apr. 23: Case Study

Movie: *A Beautiful Mind*

Apr. 30: Brain Reading

**Paper #4 Due**

Farah: pp. 137-165, 185-201

May 7: Final Exam