

Moravian College

Phil 259 PM: Medical Ethics

Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. William Falla

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Office Hours: Comenius 108B 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*, The MIT Press, Cambridge MA, 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 and focused on 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%): You will be asked to choose a case study from several that will be provided. You are to analyze them for the issues they raise and discuss them in some detail in 5-7 pages. You will also propose and defend a solution. Your answer will be evaluated on your understanding of the issues and your ability to apply the course material to both the specific problem and to its wider implications. As always, you will also be evaluated on the quality of your argumentation and style.

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. Excessive absences may unfavorably affect your class participation grade. You are also expected to hand 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 to set a new 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 of 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:

Students who wish to request accommodations for a disability in this class should contact the Academic Support Center on the first floor, Monocacy Hall , or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodation can't be provided until formal authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Course Syllabus

Jan. 20: Introduction to Biomedical Ethics

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 1-29

Jan. 27: Traditional Ethical Theories

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 351-385

Feb. 3: Moral Character & Status

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 30-94

Feb. 10: Respect for Autonomy

Paper #1 Due

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 101-141

Feb. 17: Case Study: Autonomy

Movie: *Awakenings*

Feb. 24: Nonmaleficence

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 150-193

Mar. 2: Beneficence

Paper #2 Due

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 202-241

Mar. 9: **Spring Break**

Mar. 16: Justice

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 249-292

Mar. 23: Professional-Patient Relationships **Paper #3 Due**

Beauchamp & Childress: pp. 302-340

Mar. 30: Foundations of Mental Health Ethics

Sisti: pp. 35-73

Apr. 6: Consent Issues

Paper #4 Due

Sisti: pp. 75-112

Apr. 13: Trauma & Treatment

Sisti: pp. 123-135; 149-169

Apr. 20: Addiction

Sisti: pp. 179- 210

Apr. 27: Brain Reading

Final Case Study Due

Movie: *A Beautiful Mind*