JEFFERSON COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

PHL203

MEDICAL ETHICS

3 Credit Hours

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Revised Date: January 2006
by
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Arts and Science Education
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PHL 203 MEDICAL ETHICS
I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Prerequisites: None
3 semester hours credit

Medical Ethics focuses on contemporary issues in health care ethics. Students will be made familiar with major theories of ethics and justice. They will learn about health care codes of ethics, classic cases in the recent history of medical ethics, and ongoing disputes about topics such as abortion, euthanasia, resource allocation, patient rights, research on human subjects, and reproductive technologies. (F,S)

II. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Identify ethical issues in the area of health care.

B. Understand and apply different moral theories to those ethical issues.

C. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation for conflicting views in moral disagreements.

D. Possess familiarity with cases from the past thirty years, which have shaped public debate on medical ethics.

E. Demonstrate the ability to construct sound moral arguments.

III. COURSE OUTLINE (Course content will be drawn from this.)

A. Ethical Theories

B. Justice Theories

C. The Hippocratic Oath and Codes of Ethics

D. Euthanasia

E. Abortion

F. Reproductive Ethics

G. Research Ethics

H. Organ Transplantation

I. Health Care Reform
J. AIDS

IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. Ethical Theories

1. Be able to state and apply basic principles of Kantian Ethics.
2. Be able to state and apply basic principles of Utilitarian Ethics.
3. Be able to state and apply basic principles of the Ethics of Care.

B. Justice Theories

1. Be able to state and apply basic principles of Utilitarian justice.
2. Be able to state and apply basic principles of Libertarian justice.
3. Be able to state and apply basic principles of Rawlsian justice.

C. The Hippocratic Oath and Codes of Ethics

1. Describe the nature and importance of the Hippocratic Oath.
2. Critically analyze professional Codes of Ethics.

D. Euthanasia

1. Describe the case of Karen Ann Quinlan.
2. List and describe the different forms of euthanasia
3. Discuss the moral dimensions of the different types of euthanasia.

E. Abortion

1. Describe the United States Supreme Court's decision in Roe v Wade and subsequent decisions on abortion.
2. Identify different stages of fetal development, which may impact on the question of the morality of abortion.
3. Discuss the moral dimensions of abortion.

F. Reproductive Ethics
1. Describe the New Jersey case of "Baby M."

2. Identify the range of reproductive technologies developed in the past thirty years.

3. Discuss the moral dimensions of those reproductive technologies.

G. Research Ethics

1. Describe the history of the Nuremberg Trials and the development of the Nuremberg Code.

2. Describe the history and impact of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.

3. Explain key concerns in the area of animal research and testing.

H. Organ Transplantation

1. Understand the critical global organ shortage.

2. Explain different proposals for increasing the supply of organs and their moral dimensions.

3. Explain different models for fair distribution of organs.

I. Health Care Reform

1. Discuss the current constraints on health care funding and the impact of cost containment on the operation of health care.

2. Identify questions of justice associated with health care cost containment.

J. AIDS

1. Understand the history of the AIDS epidemic.

2. Employ tools acquired during the course to identify the moral dimensions of this disease.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lectures

B. Class discussions

C. Video presentations
D. Reading of textbook

E. Preparation of a medical ethics research paper.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS (STUDENT)

A. Textbook

B. Access to a typewriter/word processor

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

A. Library Collection

B. Writing Center

C. Internet Access

IX. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Mid-term and final exam

B. Research paper

C. Two essay summaries

D. Class participation

E. Attendance

The grading scale is as follows:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- Below 60 = F