

Bioethics

Syracuse University - REL 552/PHI594
LeMoyne College- CCM 408 / 508
Health Science Center – CCFM 1413, CCFM 413, CCFM 6413

Instructor: Dr. Ernest Wallwork
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Office hours: by appointment

Spring, 2009
Wednesday, 6:45-9:45 p.m.
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TA: Patty Giles
TA email: pmgiles@syr.edu
TA office hour: Monday, 2:00-3:00
TA office: 514 Hall of Languages

Objectives:

This course is intended to develop your understanding of and appreciation for the complexities of ethical problems related to the health professions and the contribution of philosophical reflection to moral decision-making in this important area.

The course is also intended to provide an opportunity for you to improve your written and verbal communication skills.

Textbooks:

Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics, 6th edition. NY: Oxford University Press. (BC)

Requirements:

Attendance/Participation Critical discussion is essential to this course. You are expected to attend every class meeting. Absences will be excused only with advanced notice and written, official documentation of illness or emergency. Unexcused absences will lower your final grade. Students are expected to contribute to all seminar discussions. It is important that you read the assignments carefully before class and that you come prepared to discuss the readings.

Weekly Reflection Papers/Participation Grade (35%). Students are expected to turn in weekly reflection papers on the reading assignment for that day. These responses will constitute a significant portion of your participation grade. From time to time, you will be asked to share your reflection paper with the class or the working group to which you are assigned. Late response papers will not be accepted. Pop quizzes may be given if the discussion indicates that the reading assignment has not been read with sufficient care. These pop quizzes will be factored into your final participation grade. Your response paper should state in a couple of sentences or a short paragraph an important ethical issue/argument in that week's reading. The rest of the paper should discuss critically the

treatment of the issue/argument and your agreement/disagreement with how the author(s) handle it. The response papers should be 1-2 pages long, double-spaced, with regular margins and font. It is your responsibility to give a hard copy of your response paper to the instructor before you leave the classroom on the day it is due. Late response papers will not be accepted.

Short Take Home Exam (20%). A short paper (4 pages double-spaced) on an assigned case will be required of all students. The topic will be assigned on **Feb 18** and it will be due on **March 4**. The aim of this exam/paper is to demonstrate your developing skills in ethical analysis and argumentation..

Final Term Paper (45%): Each student will be expected to select a topic of interest in the area of ethics and the health professions. Topics must be submitted for approval in advance by the instructor by **February 25**. Satisfactory completion of a research paper approximately 12-15 pages long is required. An imaginative presentation of your research project to the class will take place at the end of the course **on April 15 or 22**. The presentation may include: a case for discussion, a video project, a debate, a performance or graphic arts project, or a summary of research. You should choose a form of presentation that creatively conveys what you want to communicate. The presentation is worth 20%; the final paper another 25%. The final paper is **due on April 29**.

Grades: Students will be graded on the basis of the quality of their (1) participation in the seminar discussions, in-class oral assignments and quizzes, and response papers (35%); (2) the quality of the mid-term case write-up (20%); (3) in-class presentation project and final draft of the research paper (45%). The standard of assessment will vary in accordance with the educational background of the individual student.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

January 14

Distribution of Syllabus

Professor Wallwork is out of town, presenting at the American Psychoanalytic Association annual meeting in NYC.

January 21

Ethical Reflection

--Discussion of Cases
--Introduction to Ethical Theory

BC, chs. 1-2 (pp.1-57)

- January 28 **Ethical Theory**
- BC, ch. 9 (333-363) [Graduate students should read ch. 10]
Immanuel Kant, “Goodwill, Duty and the Categorical Imperative”
(Blackboard [Bb] & SUNY library online reserve)
J. Bentham, “Quantitative Utilitarianism” (Bb & SUNY library
online reserve)
- February 4 **Autonomy: Refusing Treatment**
(film: “Please Let Me Die”)
- BC, ch.4, pp.99-140
- February 11 **Nonmaleficence: Professional Responsibilities and Physician**
Assisted Suicide
(film: “Dax’s Case”)
- BC, ch. 5, 149-190.
- February 18 **Beneficence, Paternalism and Informed Consent**
- BC, ch.6, 197-233
- Take-home Exam Distribution**
- February 25 **Truth-telling and Confidentiality**
(film: “The DNR Dilemma”)
- BC, ch. 8, pp. 288-317
- Final Research Paper Topics Due**
- March 4 **Allowing to Die/Euthanasia**
(film: “No Heroic Measures”)
- Regan, Tom (ed.), Matters of Life and Death, 3rd Edition, ch 2,
“Euthanasia,” pp.30-68. (Bb & SUNY online reserve)

Mid-term Home Exam due

- March 11 **SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS**
- March 18 **Research with Human Subjects & Animals**
(film: “Balancing Society’s Mandates”)
- BC, ch. 7, 317-322
- “Biomedical Research and Technology,” in Beauchamp and Walters, Contemporary Issues in Bioethics, 6th ed., pp.345-355; 418-425; 437-443. (Bb & SUNY online reserve)
- March 25 **Abortion**
- Edelin, Kenneth, “Abortion,” pp. 169-195. (Bb & SUNY online reserve)
- April 1 **New Reproductive Technologies**
- “Reproductive Technologies and Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research,” in Beauchamp and Walters, Contemporary Issues in Bioethics, 6th ed, pp. 563-602.
- April 8 **Imperiled Newborns**
(film: “Better Off Dead”)
- Munson, Ronald (ed), Intervention and Reflection, 6th Edition, “Impaired Infants and Medical Futility,” ch.2, 136—169.
- April 15 **Justice: Microallocation and Macroallocation**
- BC, ch. 6, 225-272
- Presentation of Student Papers**
- April 22 **Presentation of Student Papers** [Last class]
- April 29 **Final Papers Due**

Official Policies:

Academic Integrity: The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The Policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/>.

Disability Statement: Students who may need academic accommodations due to a disability are encouraged to discuss their needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. In order to obtain authorized accommodations, students should be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309 (315) 443-4498 and have an updated accommodation letter for the instructor. Accommodation and related support services such as exam administration are not provided retroactively and must be requested in advance. For more information about services and policy, visit the Office of Disability Services website at <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/> or contact the office at the addresses below:

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