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PHIL 421E.01: Medical Ethics

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Philosophy 421: Medical Ethics

Fall Semester, 2001
TTh 340-500
LA 205

University of Montana
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Course Description and Objectives: This three-credit course examines the moral dimensions of health care as they are manifest in select issues, including the doctor-patient relationship, medical decisionmaking, the definition of death, the right to refuse treatment, euthanasia and assisted suicide, abortion, procreation, assisted reproduction, genetic technologies, medical research, and medical resource allocation. Numerous cases will be used to highlight moral issues. The purpose of the course is to:

1. Provide students with a basic understanding of moral dimensions of health care and biotechnology and
2. Provide students with an understanding of ethical decisionmaking generally
3. Advance students' skills in critical thinking and writing in ethics through the consideration of medical ethics issues and cases

Prerequisites: A lower-level ethics course, or permission of instructor

Requirements

1. Mid-term examination, Thursday, October 25 (30 percent of grade)
 2. Ethical analysis paper, due November ~~30~~²⁰ (30 percent of grade)
 3. Participation in case discussions (10 percent of grade)
 4. Final examination, Tuesday, December ~~18~~¹⁹ (30 percent of grade)
- Examinations will likely be a combination of a choice among short answer questions and a longer essay and/or case analysis. The final examination will not be comprehensive but may be longer than the mid-term.
 - The required paper should analyze central arguments of a particular medical ethical issue and put forward your normative position on the issue. It should utilize at least two outside sources. Students are encouraged to discuss topics and ideas with the instructor in advance. Graduate students taking the course for graduate credit should see the instructor for additional requirements.

Required Reading

John D. Arras and Bonnie Steinbock, eds., *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine*, 5th edition, 1999 (paper). Used copies may be available.

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (pb). Used copies may be available.

Other articles and cases as assigned (electronic reserve at Mansfield Library)

Format

Typically, lectures will be given on Tuesday and the first 20-30 minutes of the Thursday session. Discussion of cases will occur during the latter part of the Thursday sessions.

Topics and Reading Assignments**Introduction: Moral Reasoning in the Medical Context**

Sept. 4, 6 A&S, pp. 1-40

Foundations of the Health Professional-Patient Relationship

Sept. 11,13 A&S, pp. 41-44, 51-55, 59-76, 85-100

Forgoing Life-Sustaining Treatment

Sept. 18 *Defining Death*
A&S, pp. 131-134, 143-169

Sept. 20 No Class

Sept. 25, 27 *Decisional Capacity & Advance Directives*
A&S, pp. 135-139, 177-201 205-206, 216-231

Oct. 2, 4 *Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide*
A&S, pp. 139-142, 250-253, 274-280, 292-301
Callahan, "When Self-Determination Runs Amok"
(electronic reserve)

Abortion and Procreative Choice

Oct. 9, 11 *The Morality of Abortion*
A&S, pp. 308-313, 330-374

Oct. 16, 18 *Procreative Autonomy and Responsibility*
A&S, pp. 313-315, 375-401

Catch Up and Review

Oct. 23

Mid-term Examination

Oct. 25

