MEDICAL ETHICS
PHIL 2450

Catalog Course Description:

This is a study of ethical issues in medicine. Topics include abortion, euthanasia, humane experimentation, and fairness in health care delivery and in the doctor-patient relationship.

Entry Level Standards:

Students must be able to read and write at the college level. Students must also be responsible enough to prepare for and attend class regularly.

Prerequisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:


I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Passive Euthanasia</td>
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<td>Advance Directive</td>
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<td>Suicide</td>
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<td>Abortion: Part One</td>
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<td>In Vitro Fertilization</td>
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II. Course Objectives*:

A. Gain an understanding of the various approaches to ethical reasoning. I.5

B. Gain an appreciation of the changes that have taken place in medical ethics during the past thirty years. I.5, IV

C. Become familiar with important cases and events in medical ethics during the past thirty years. I.5

D. Develop an ability to seek out relevant data/information when dealing with moral issues. VII.1, VII.3, VII.4

E. Become sensitive to the linguistic traps that result in needless controversy in medical ethics. I.2, I.3, I.4, I.5, III.2

F. Gain an understanding of the roles and relationships of health care workers and their patients. I.5, IV.2

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the university parallel program.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Read and critique the texts. Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome

2. Participate in class discussion, listen to the views of others and develop a dialogue with class members. Communication Outcome, Personal Development Outcome, Active Learning Strategy

3. Take tests demonstrating their comprehension of the material. Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation Outcome, Information Literacy Outcome

4. Be encouraged to continue this dialogue in non-academic settings. Personal Development Outcome, Transitional Strategy

5. Become more tolerant of and ready to listen to the views of others. Personal Development Outcome, Transitional Strategy

6. Internalize the work ethic by regularly attending class, being punctual, being dependable, cooperating with the teacher and other classmates, contributing to class discussion and acting in a professional manner while in class. Personal Development Outcome,
Transitional Strategy

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State’s goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

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

1. Define philosophy. A, B
2. Define moral philosophy. A
3. Understand/discuss the moral theories of justice of Mill, Marx, Rawls, Nozick, etc. A,B
4. Understand/discuss euthanasia as a moral issue. A,F,G
5. Understand/discuss the Karen Quinlan case. B,C,D,G
6. Understand/discuss the Nancy Cruzan case. B,C,D,G
7. Understand/discuss advance directives (like durable powers of attorney, living wills, etc). B,D,E,G
8. Understand/discuss suicide as a moral issue. F,G
9. Understand/discuss the Elizabeth Bouvia case. B,C,D,G
10. Understand/discuss the Larry McAfee case. B,C,D,G
11. Understand/discuss the Hippocratic Oath. F,G
13. Discuss legalized euthanasia in the Netherlands. B,D,G
14. Define/discuss surrogacy as a moral issue. F,G
15. Understand/discuss the Baby M. case. B,C,D,G
16. Define/discuss abortion as a moral issue. F,G
17. Understand/discuss Roe v. Wade. B,C,D,G
19. Understand/discuss fetal development. B,D,F,G
20. Understand/discuss fetal experimentation. B,E,G
21. Understand/discuss the treatment of impaired newborns. B,E,G
22. Understand/discuss the Baby Doe rules. B,C,D,G
23. Understand/discuss in vitro fertilization. B,F,G
24. Understand/discuss the ethical dimensions of fertility treatments. B,F,G
25. Understand/discuss medical experimentation. B,E,G
26. Understand/discuss the Nuremberg Code. C,D,F,G
27. Understand/discuss the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment. B,C,D,G
28. Understand/discuss institutional review boards. B,E,G
29. Define/discuss the history of AIDS testing. B,G
30. Understand/discuss confidentiality and AIDS testing. B,F,G
31. Understand/discuss confinement and communicable disease. B,F,G
32. Understand/discuss organ transplantation. B,F,G
33. Understand/discuss the Swedish hospital case. B,C,E,F,G
34. Understand/discuss organ donation and allocation. B,F,G
35. Understand/discuss justice and health care. A-G
36. Understand/discuss the Oregon Plan. A-G
37. Understand/discuss TennCare. A-G
38. Understand/discuss HMO’s. A-G
39. Understand/discuss National Health Care and any number of other moral issues related to medicine and medical care. A-G

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 100% of grade

   The grade will be based entirely upon essay exams and a major paper.

B. Laboratory Expectations:

   N/A

C. Field Work:

   N/A

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

   N/A

E. Grading Scale:

   100-93   A
   92-88    B+
VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State Technical Community College expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Dishonesty of any kind may result in an “F” for the course.