

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

HP 880: ETHICAL ISSUES IN HEALTH CARE

Fall 2000

Instructors:

Theresa A. Walls, D.O.

Office Hours: After Class

Tuesday 4:00PM -6:00PM
GLS 202

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Course Description

This course will be a critical examination of the central ethical issues in the health care field. There will be a brief introduction to ethical theory and the various approaches to bioethics. Necessary background in moral philosophy will be provided. The implications of ethical decision making for health policy will be a central theme of this course.

Introduction

The field of Bioethics/ health care ethics is relatively new. Its origins derived from a number of events and factors. Among them were the social and political ferment of the 1960's, the rapid and far reaching growth of medical technologies, the increased emphasis on individual rights, and the probing questions being asked by various academic disciplines such as sociology, philosophy, theology, history and the law relative to health , healthcare and its delivery . The now noted “right to die”, Karen Quinlan case in the 1970's was a key event catapulting such issues into the public consciousness. Twenty-first century medicine and research demand that we be “moral agents” whether we are clinicians, managers or healthcare executives, for the clinical decisions we make and the policies we create will reach far beyond the here and now.

Course Objectives

- To develop an understanding of ethical reasoning, principles and models applied to health care decision making and health policy.
- To develop the skills for ethical decision making.
- To develop an understanding and appreciation of the interdisciplinary and non-moral factors relevant to health care ethics such as technology, legal issues and

implications, and the historical ,social, psychological and policy aspects of healthcare.

- To identify a method of tapping the necessary resources to maintain an up to date and current approach to ethical issues in health care and be able to perform a critical analysis of the ethics literature..

Required Text

Fletcher, John C., and Lombardo, Paul A. et al. (1998). Introduction to Clinical Ethics
University Publishing Group, Inc.

Coursepack of additional readings with an appendix of cases for discussion. Other handouts may be distributed in class

Course Requirements and Evaluation

The final grade will be calculated on a point system as follows

Attendance / Participation (10 points) : Since an essential component of this course will be participation and discussion attendance is critical. Participation is expected to be active and based on assigned readings and classroom activities.

Reaction/ Reflection Papers (45 points) : You will be required to submit a 2-4 page paper which is a reaction to or reflection on the weeks readings, 3 times during the semester . The paper will be on the readings due on the day you submit the paper. Each reaction paper will be worth 10 points for a total of 30 points

Case Analysis : You will complete a case analysis from an assigned case: (15 points) .
Details to follow

Research Paper **OR** Take Home Assignment (30 points): You may choose a research paper of 10-20 pages. The student should submit an outline prior to undertaking the paper. This paper should critically analyze a particular issue in health care ethics.

Take home Assignment: The take home assignment option will consist of three essay questions. The answers should be 2-2.5 pages each.

Course Schedule

Weekly Course schedule: (subject to change)

August 29.	Introduction to Course Requirements/ Review of Syllabus	Text: Ch. 1-2 Readings: 1
August 29 (cont.)	History of Bioethics Bioethics as a Discipline	
September 5. September 12	Ethical Theory Approaches to Bioethics: Principles, Pragmatic Bioethics , Casuistry The Ethics Work Up Cases: to be presented and discussed	Text: Ch. 1&2(cont) Readings: 2
September 19	Professional Ethics Models of the Doctor-Patient Relationship Professional Responsibilities Cases: to be presented	Text: Ch. 3-6, 15. Readings: 50
September 26. October 3	Decision- Making Capacity Confidentiality Truth Telling Informed Consent Cases	Text: Ch. 3-6 (cont.) Readings: 3-8
October 10	No Class	
October 17	Issues at the End of Life: Autonomy Decision- making capacity	Text: Ch 7,8,9 Readings : 9-13

Deciding for others
Advance Directives

Dax Cowart Video

October 23 Foregoing Treatment Text: Ch., 7,8,9(cont)
Futility Readings: 15-22
Nutrition/ Hydration
Cases

October 31 The Quinlan Case Text: Ch.7,8,9(cont.)
The Cruzan Case Readings: handouts
The Cruzan Video **Case Analysis**
Distributed

November 7 Euthanasia Text: Ch 7,8,9 (cont)
Assisted Suicide Readings: 14, 23-28
The Oregon Law

November 14 Beginning of Life **Case for analysis**
Abortion/ Reproductive Rights **Due**
Text Ch.10,11
Maternal/ Fetal Conflict Readings: 29-36
Severely impaired Newborns
Take Home
Assignment
Distributed
Cases
Reproductive Technologies
Genetic Testing/ Prenatal Diagnosis
Cloning

November 21 Medicine and Economics: Text: Ch. 12,13
Rationing/Allocation of Resources Readings : 37-48
Managed Care
Gatekeeping
Business Ethics vs. Medical Ethics

Discussion: Case will be distributed

November 28 Managed Care (cont.)

Text: ch. 14

Readings: 49, 52-54

Ethics Committees/ Consultation
Doing Ethics/ Problem Solving /Cases
Wrap- Up / Evaluation

Take Home or Paper Due