

PHIL 4/50005 (section 001): Healthcare Ethics

Spring 2012

M 5:30-8:15 pm

Bowman 217

Professor: Dr. Deborah Barnbaum
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Office Hours: M 12:00-2:30 pm, W 2:30-5:00, and by appointment

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Course Description: This course thoroughly examines some of the concepts and practices that underlie several issues in medical ethics, including the principles of autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice. *Prima facie* we believe that patients have the right to make their own decisions, physicians have the obligation to do what is best for their patients, and no one should be forced to do anything without his or her consent. However, these three practices cannot always be reconciled. When they cannot, should we err on the side of paternalism, and how far should we go? What safeguards are in place to simultaneously prevent widespread paternalism, insure patient autonomy, and promote patient well-being? We will examine several practices, as well as the relationships between physicians, patients, and nurses, in the clinical setting.

Texts:

1. *The Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 6th edition, Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress (henceforth *PBE*)
2. *Biomedical Ethics*, 7th edition, ed. David DeGrazia, Thomas A. Mappes, and Jeffrey Brand-Ballard (henceforth *BE*)

Hand-outs may also be available during the course of the semester. Most handouts will be distributed via email attachment to your kent.edu account.

Course Requirements:

Prerequisites for this class include either junior-level standing or having taken Introduction to Ethics (PHIL 21001).

Each class will begin with an in-class short quiz based on the readings assigned for that week. These exams will take approximately 15 minutes of class time, and they will include short answer, multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in, or any combination of the above types of questions. After the first 15 minutes of class all quizzes will be handed in; therefore, it is recommended that you come to class on time. There will be 12 quizzes over the course of the semester. Of these 12 quizzes, 10 will count toward your final grade; the quizzes with the two lowest grades will be dropped. If you miss a quiz for any reason, that quiz may be one of your dropped quizzes. These quizzes will collectively comprise 50% of your grade. All quizzes will be recorded using your Banner ID number, not name. Students should memorize their Banner ID numbers prior to the first quiz.

There will be an in-class midterm and an in-class final, both of which will consist of close-ended and open-ended questions. The final exam will be cumulative. The essay questions on the final exam will be handed out a week before the final exam. The midterm will comprise 20% of your grade and the final will comprise 20% of your grade.

The remainder of your grade (10%) will be based on in-class participation. In-class participation may include attendance, asking questions during class, reading aloud, in-class discussion and debates.

If you are a graduate student, you will also be required to hand in a term paper, and give a class presentation on your work. Please see me if you are a graduate student so that we can discuss both the term project and class presentation in greater detail.

Grades will be assessed using the following scale:

100-92	A	77.9-72	C
91.9-90	A-	71.9-70	C-
89.9-88	B+	69.9-68	D+
87.9-82	B	67.9-62	D
81.9-80	B-	61.9-60	D-
79.9-78	C+	<59.9	F

There is no “extra credit”.

Class Management

The official registration deadline for this course is January 22, 2012. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated.

Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline. The last day to withdraw from this class is March 18, 2012.

If you miss a class for any reason, it is recommended that you get notes from at least two other students in the class. After getting notes from other students, if you still have questions about that class, please see your teaching assistant or the professor in office hours.

It is recommended that you turn off your cell phone, pager, etc., during class. If you are expecting an emergency call, then you may leave it on. However, in such an emergency you should both 1) tell the professor before class that you may be expecting an emergency call, and 2) sit close to the door so that you can discretely leave class once you receive the call. It is understood that if this is an emergency that you will be unable to return to class. I will ask you to leave if your texting in class distracts me. It is recommended that you do not text in class.

Since this is an ethics class, it is expected that students will be discussing significant issues about which there may be strong disagreements. Agreement isn't necessary, but respectful debate and discussion are.

Class Schedule (subject to change during the course of the semester, with appropriate notice by the professor):

Week #1: Background in Moral Theory (Act Utilitarianism, Rule Utilitarianism, Kantian Deontology)

BE editors, pp. 1-23; editors, pp. 38-40
PBE chpt. 9

Week #2: NO CLASS – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Week #3: Continuation of Moral Theory (Ross's Ethic of *Prima Facie* Duties, Virtue Ethics, Feminist and Feminine Ethics, Casuistry)

BE editors, pp. 28-40
PBE chpt. 10

Week #4: The Principles of Biomedical Ethics: Introduction to "Principlism", the Principle of Autonomy

BE editors, pp. 41-48
PBE chpt. 4

Week #5: The Principles of Biomedical Ethics: Beneficence and Nonmaleficence, Responding to Paternalism

PBE chpts. 5,6
BE editors, pp. 48-51

Week #6: The Principles of Biomedical Ethics: Justice, Allocation of Healthcare Resources

PBE chpt. 7
BE editors, pp. 623-637; Buchanan, pp. 638-649

Week #7: MIDTERM – February 20th

Week #8: Virtues and Rights of Physicians: Truth-Telling, Responding to Iatrogenic Complications

BE, *The Hippocratic Oath*, pp. 69-70; Pellegrino, pp. 70-74; Higgs, pp. 103-109
PBE pp. 288-295

Week #9: Virtues and Rights of Physicians: Privacy and Confidentiality

BE, *Tarasoff*, pp. 109-116; case study with Fleck & Angell, pp. 116-119
PBE, pp. 296-310

Week #10: Virtues and Rights of Patients

BE, Ackerman, pp. 83-87; Childress & Siegler, pp. 74-82

Week #11: Research Ethics: Historical Concerns, The Physician as Investigator, Placebo Trials

BE, editors, pp. 243-251; Nuremberg Code pp. 253-254; WMA's Declaration of Helsinki, pp. 254-258; Hellman and Hellman, pp. 259-264; Litton & Miller, pp. 268-278 PBE pp. 317-324 (Starting with the "Dual Roles..." section)

Week #12: Research Ethics: Special Populations, Waiving Informed Consent for "Emergency Research", Research on Persons in Developing Nations

Glantz, et al, pp. 278-284; Brody, pp. 284-288; "Fair Benefits", pp. 288-292

Week #13: Protecting Autonomy via Informed Consent

President's Commission, pp. 120-125; Brody, pp. 126-132

Week #14: Genetic Decision-making

BE, editors, pp. 523-533; Kass, pp. 533-537; Purdy, pp. 538-544; Robertson, pp. 589-595; President's Council on Bioethics, pp. 596-598

Week #15: Cessation of Treatment and Medical Futility

BE, Council on Ethical & Judicial Affairs, AMA, pp. 341-343; Powell & Lowenstein, pp. 343-348; Tomlinson & Brody, pp. 354-359; Wicclair, pp. 359-363

Final Exam Week: Final Exam 5:45 until 8:00 pm, April 30th

Students with Disabilities: University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

Academic Complaints: The Philosophy Department Grievance Procedure for handling student grievances is in conformity with the Student Academic Complaint Policy and Procedures set down as University Policy 3342-16 in the University Policy Register. For information concerning the details of the grievance procedure, please see the departmental chairperson.

Academic Dishonesty: University policy 3342-3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037779 and/or ask.