

Phil 1180 Biomedical Ethics

A. Course Description

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
Lab hours per week: none
3. Prerequisites: none
4. Co-requisites: none
5. MnTC Goals: 6 and 9

Should physician-assisted suicide be legalized? Is there a right to health care? Should genetic technologies be used for enhancing human capabilities? What ethical ideals ought to govern the patient-provider relationship? These are just a few of the questions addressed in biomedical ethics. Biomedical ethics is the study of the ethical issues that arise in the practice of medicine and health care. In this course, we will begin by examining several major ethical theories, including critiques of these theories that have led to alternative approaches to ethical decision-making. We will then investigate a range of specific ethical issues through the lens of these theories and approaches.

B. Date last revised: Fall 2015

C. Outline of Major Content Areas

1. Ethical Theory (may include utilitarianism, Kantianism, virtue ethics, ethics of care, the four principles approach)
2. Issues in Biomedical Ethics (may include topics in the following areas): the professional-patient relationship, death and end of life decisions, suicide and physician-assisted suicide, genetics and human reproduction, human and animal research, social justice and access to health care, biotechnology and enhancement.
3. Case Study Analysis

D. Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Summarize and analyze traditional ethical theories. 9b, 6a, 6b
2. Summarize and analyze alternatives to traditional ethical theories. 9b, 6a, 6b
3. Apply ethical theories and concepts to biomedical issues. 9b, 2b, 2c

4. Elucidate the ethical aspects involved in the diverse approaches to biomedical issues taken by alternative social, economic, and political perspectives. 9c, 9d, 2b
5. Formulate, analyze, and assess one's own ethical perspectives on biomedical issues. 6e, 9a, 9d, 2d
6. Formulate and describe responses to biomedical ethical issues on both theoretical and personal levels. 6c, 9e, 9a, 9b, 2a
7. Use diverse ethical views to imaginatively generate alternative reasoning resulting in alternative solutions to biomedical ethical problems. 6b, 9d, 2b, 2d
8. Understand the elements relevant to an ethical problem and generate and evaluate the ethical implications that follow from them. 9b, 2c

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning

1. Essays and Papers
2. Exams and Quizzes
3. Homework Assignments
4. Discussion Projects and Participation
5. Service Learning

F. Special Information: none