CURRENT ISSUES IN BIOETHICS

SYLLABUS

TIME:
MONDAY 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Lecture, Ross Hall 227
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Seminar Group Discussions
Room & Sessions to be Announced

TEXT:

All readings in text. Workshop required reading is
The Hastings Center Supplemental Issue on AIDS, August 1985 Issue. Available in bookstore. (Journal article)

Course Goals
Recent advances in medical knowledge and technology and the lack of consensus within our society in regard to value issues have made biomedical ethics a matter of concern for every citizen as well as for health care practitioners. This course offers the opportunity to work toward a coherent personal understanding of moral issues in general and in relation to such specific questions as personhood, informed consent, health care allocation, and questions of life and death.

Course Objectives
1. Students will develop the ability to identify world views that give rise to moral norms and values.
2. Students will develop a basic understanding of the methods and theories inherent to ethical reasoning.
3. Students will be able to delineate the specific ethical issues raised by each topic and their relationship to general ethical reasoning.
4. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the various points of view presented in the required readings.
5. Students will develop the ability to identify feelings illicited by moral experience and their place in moral discourse.
6. Students are expected to be able to defend points of view in a logical fashion.
7. Students are expected to refer to the readings in their discussions.
8. Students are expected to be able to relate their own position to more general ethical theories.

Course Requirements
Regular attendance and seminar participation is required of all students.
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Course Requirements

1. Assignments

A. First Assignment — CASE ANALYSIS, 3-5 pages. DUE FEB. 3.
A case scenario will be distributed during the first lecture.
A guideline for the analysis will also be distributed. Based
upon your readings and understanding of the lectures, you will
be asked to complete an analysis to help you apply ethical
theory and concepts to decision-making problems which emerge
in health care practice. This is a brief exercise to begin
working with theory and practice issues.

KEEP A COPY OF YOUR PAPER TO ASSIST WITH THIRD COURSE ASSIGNMENT.

B. Second Assignment — ISSUE PAPER, 5-10 pages. DUE MARCH 17.
A set of questions will be distributed in class Feb. 24th.
These questions will refer to Parts 2, 3 and 5 of the book.
Please refer to the concepts discussed in the book as you
write your response. Please designate your references with
footnotes.

C. Third Assignment — CRITIQUE OF CASE ANALYSIS, 5-10 pages. DUE APRIL 21
The purpose of this critique is to chart your progress in
the application of ethical theory with practice issues. On
March 31 a guideline for critique of your first case will be
distributed in class. You will be asked to reexamine your
first case. You will be asked to assume the role of a
highly insightful and critical reviewer. Your tasks will be
to: (1) identify weaknesses in your initial argument, and
(2) address those weaknesses and elaborate on the extent to
which they do or do not alter the validity of your conclusion.
In particular, you should attempt to delineate all potential
counterarguments to your original position; to either justify
or refute them in deciding whether your original position was
correct.

2. Seminar Participation — your role will depend on the seminar
leader. Students are graded on their participation in seminars.
During the workshop component of the course you may be asked
to lead your small group discussion by preparation of comments
on the readings, etc. Again, this will be based upon the
discretion of the seminar leader. Thus, make sure you understand
expectations of the seminar leaders for your participation.

ALL STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE:

1. GRADUATE students will be required to complete assignments
   1 & 3 and a research paper as an extension of assignment #2.
   This paper is to be 25-30 pages, appropriately researched
   and argued. You should submit a draft copy or proposal
   midway into the course to the course-director of your choice.
   This paper may be on any subject in the field of bioethics,
   but might best focus on subjects not covered in course (i.e.
   drawn from Parts 2, 3 and 5 of the book.) FINAL PAPER DUE APRIL 21st.
2. Medical and Allied Health Students enrolled in the course for 1 credit are expected to complete only the first and the third assignments; the case analysis and the case critique. Attendance at seminars expected.

3. HSA Graduate Students will be expected to complete the regular course assignments.

4. Law school students taking the course for 2 credits complete the regular course assignments.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Any questions or concerns, please contact the following faculty during the lecture hour or at their offices. If you are unable to attend a seminar, please let your seminar leader know.

Jonathan Moreno, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Department of Health Care Sciences. 676-8899/6913 (Academic Center) 5th fl.

Gail Povar, MD, M.P.H, Associate Professor, Department of Health Care Sciences 676 4090 (O)
1229 25th St. HMO 3rd fl

Because of Dr. Povar's clinical schedule, you may call her at home between 8 and 10:00 pm. The home phone number is 229 9050.

Harry Yeide, Ph.D, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Religion. 676 6325 (O) 2106 C St. Bl. 0-101 597 3771 (H)

Course Coordinator Paula Wolfson, MSW Office is in Ross Hall. Rm. 113. Phone 676 3448. Office Hours: 11 – 5 pm Monday, 1 -5pm Tuesday, 9 – 5 pm Wednesday.

If you need to meet with Paula, she will also be in her office after seminars from 7-7:30 pm on Monday nights.
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OUTLINE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Jan. 13 - Introduction of Course-Dilemma and Decisions: Harry Yeide, Ph.D
Film - "Code Grey"
Seminar Groups - Introductory Meeting/Discuss Film
Guideline Case Analysis Distributed Assignment #1

Jan. 27 - Moral Theory/Moral Practice - Jonathan Moreno, Ph.D.
Readings: Introduction, Part One, Section One, pgs. 56-64.

Feb. 3 - The Health Profession: An Experience in Caring-Gail Povar, MD
Readings: Part 1, pgs. 34-56
Part 1, pgs. 64-74.
FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE - CASE ANALYSIS

Feb. 10 - Informed Consent and Competence - To Be Announced
Readings: Part 1, Sec. 3,4
Part 3, Sec. 3.

Feb 24 - Human Experimentation- Harry Yeide, Ph.D.
Readings: Part 4, Sec. 1 & 2- pgs. 291-321.
Sec. 4.
Guideline Issue Paper Distributed Assignment #2

March 3 - Justice and Public Health-Dr. Jonathan Moreno
Readings: Part 6, Sec. 2, pgs. 472-480.
Sec. 4, pgs. 506-516

March 17 - Access and Allocation - Gail Povar, MD, MPH
Readings: Part 6, Sec. 1,3,5.
Second Assignment Due

March 31 - Lecture on AIDS - Jeff Stryker
Readings: The Hastings Center Report/August 85, Supplemental Article on AIDS
Guideline for Case Critique will be distributed.

WORKSHOP COMPONENT -

April 7 and 14 meet at 5pm in your small seminar groups. We will not have a lecture during the 5-6pm hour. Seminar leaders will facilitate discussion concerning ethical theory and the many issues raised by diagnosis, treatment and care of AIDS patients. These discussions will vary depending upon the seminar leaders.

April 21 - Summary Lecture. Meet 5 pm in Ross Hall. 227.

CASE CRITIQUE AND RESEARCH PAPERS DUE
Mary Ann Baily, Ph.D. Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Economics, GWU

Eve Bargmann, M.D. Assistant Professor, Health Care Sciences, GWU

Ken Bass, J.D. Private Practice – Associate with Venable, Baetjeri, Howard and Civiletti

Kurt Darr, J.D., Sc.D. Professor of Health Services Administration and Health Care Sciences

Larry McDonald, M.D. Washington Internal Medicine Clinical Instructor, GWU

Jonathan Moreno, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Departments of Health Care Sciences and Philosophy

Gail Povar, M.D., M.P.H Associate Professor, Health Care Sciences, GWU

Pat Virden, R.N. Home Care Program Health Care Sciences, GWU

Eileen Stromberg, ACSW Department of Social Services, GWU Hospital

Paula Wolfson, ACSW Course Coordinator

Harry Yeide, Ph.D. Professor and Chairman Department of Religion

The BNA building is located at 1229 25th St. N.W.