The ethical problems of the care of the terminally ill have been among the most controversial issues in medical ethics over the past decade. This course will explore those issues combining lecture, discussion, film, and (subject to availability) clinical contact. The course will not emphasize the sociological and psychological aspects of death and dying, concentrating instead on philosophical, ethical, and public policy issues.

There will be a mid-term March 18 during the first hour of class and a final exam.

Primary texts for the course will be:

For reference you may want to consult:

Many readings can be found in the following anthologies. In the reading list they are identified by the editors’ names in brackets.

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<td>Feb 4</td>
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<td>The Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients: Videotape</td>
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<td>&quot;Please Let me Die.&quot;</td>
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<td>1. Active killing and letting die/Direct/indirect</td>
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<td>Formerly Competent Patients: Living Wills/Powers of Attorney/Natural Death Acts</td>
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<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>The Role of Guardians (Quinlan, Saikewicz, Dinnerstein, Becker)</td>
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<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>The Social Ethics of Terminal Care (Age, Prognosis, and Resource Allocation)</td>
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Reading list

Jan 28: Definition of Death

Reading

Additional Reading

Feb 4: What to Tell the Dying Patient
and Informed Consent

Reading
Novack, Dennis H., Robin Plumer, Raymond L. Smith, Herbert Ochitil, Gary R. Morrow, and


**Additional Reading**


**Feb 11: Suicide**


**Additional Reading**


**Feb 18: Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients**

Videotape: "Please Let Me Die."

1. Active Killing and Letting Die
   Direct/Indirect Killing

**Reading**


Additional Reading

Feb 25: The Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients
2. Ordinary and Extraordinary Means

Reading

Additional Reading

Mar 4: Withholding Food, Fluids, CPR, and Medications
Reading

Additional Reading

Mar 18: Formerly Competent Patients: Living Wills.
Powers of Attorney and Natural Death Acts

Reading
Concern for Dying. "A Living Will.” No date. [Beauchamp and Walters]
Additional Reading

Mar 25 and April 1: The Role of Guardians

Reading

*Superintendent of Belchertown State School v. Saikewicz*. 370 NE d 417. 1977. [Beauchamp and Walters] [Shannon]


Additional Reading

**Apr 8: Hospital Ethics Committees**

**Reading**


New Jersey Guidelines for Prognosis Committees. "Guidelines for Health Care Facilities to Implement Procedures Concerning the Care of Comatose Non-Cognitive Patients." No date

**Additional Reading**


Cranford, Ronald E., and A. Edward Doudera, editors. *Institutional Ethics Committees and Health Care Decision Making.* Ann Arbor, MI: American Society of Law & Medicine, 1984

**Apr 15: Neonates and the Baby Doe Rule**

**Reading**


Additional Reading


Apr 22: The Social Ethics of Terminal Care
Age, Prognosis, and Resource Allocation

Reading


May 1: Life-Span Extension

Reading

Additional Reading