PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN MEDICAL PRACTICE

Spring 1986       Unit One--Central Themes in Bioethics

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The opening one credit unit of this four credit, two semester series of lectures, seminars, assignments, essays and other educational exercises, will focus upon the central concepts in contemporary health care ethics. Through viewing current video ethics tapes, continuing educational materials for physicians, the emphasis will be on recalling those ethical ideas that are seen to be most useful for decision making. Ideas will be tied to cases studies, to everyday events in ICUs and ERs.

TEXTS:


ATTENDANCE:

The attendance policy of the Creighton University School of Medicine will be strictly observed.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Participation in the course according to the School's norms.
2. Successful completion of the unit examination.
3. Completion of other in-class/extra-class assignments.
4. Completion of case studies, as determined during unit.
5. Attendance and active participation in general seminars.

GRADING:

The final grade will be based on the following elements:

- i) final examination 30%
- ii) case studies 30%
- iii) assignments 30%
- iv) attendance/interest 10%

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday: 8:30-10:00 and 3:30-4:30 [ or by appointment]

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POLICIES

GRADING SYSTEM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>Outstanding achievement</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Above average attainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Upper average work</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory work (failure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>Absent from final examination</td>
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OVERDUE PAPERS & CASE STUDIES:

Papers and case studies not completed and handed in on or by the date determined will be penalized 5 points, i.e. a paper worth 74 (C) will be automatically awarded 69 (F).

MISSED QUIZZES:

Cannot be made up. Credit will be lost. A quiz is defined as a short (10-12 questions) exam given during a regular class session. Dates for quizzes will be announced during the course.

FINAL EXAM:

The unit final will be a 50 minute objective test on the unit sessions, the specified sections of the unit textbooks, and on handouts distributed during the unit. The unit cannot be passed without successful passing of the unit final.

GRADING STANDARDS:

1. Grasp of issues, understanding
2. Sign of intellectual effort toward synthesis, resolution
3. Ability to situate problem, issues, debate
4. Justice toward truth, authors, positions, opinions
5. Structure, development, order, arrangement of thought

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SYLLABUS

PURPOSES:

To provide educational opportunities for those registered to sharpen, clarify still further, to strengthen their own knowledge and confidence in dealing with the central concepts, approaches and decision-making methods in contemporary U.S. medical ethics. While emphasis will be on the Catholic tradition in health care, emphasis will be on assisting students to put their ethical ideas into perspective, to better appreciate the pluralistic situation prevailing within the Church and the community today. The aim of the unit will be to put the ethics into perspective, to appreciate it in the light of the heritage, rather than to settle issues.

OUTCOMES:

Since from the outset it is assumed that the moral character and the ethics of the students have been formed, the desired outcomes through the presentations, videos, textbooks, exams, will be a clearer grasp of the central notions being used in health care at present, improved skill in case analysis and problem-solving, greater confidence in making sound ethical judgments. Improved ability in communicating values and moral positions, in writing and in words, will be a further major outcome.

TOPICS:

Session 1  Introduction to Unit
Session 2  Health Care Ethics in the United States: Central Concepts, Major Traditions Today [VC 1748, Withholding... Stanford]
Session 3  Health Care Ethics in the United States: Central Concepts, Major Traditions Today
Session 4  Health Care Ethics in the United States: Central Concepts, Major Traditions Today ["Code Grey"—The Movie]
Session 5  Health Care Ethics in the United States: Central Concepts, Major Traditions Today, [VC 378, Experimentation... UCLA]
Session 6  CASE STUDY—IN CLASS
Session 7  Health Care Ethics in the United States: Central Concepts, Major Traditions Today [VC 1748, Withholding... Stanford]
Session 8  GENERAL SEMINAR:
Session 9  MID-UNIT ASSIGNMENT—IN CLASS
UNIT ONE cont.

Session 10  Ethics of Life and Death-Issues, Ideas:  
[VC 1779, Right to Die]

Session 11  Ethics of Life and Death-Issues, Ideas:  
Duty to Live or Right to Die?

Session 12  Ethics of Life and Death-Issues, Ideas:  
Active Killing & Letting Die  
[VC 1748, Withholding... Stanford]

Session 13  Ethics of Life and Death-Issues, Ideas:  
Defining Death Today: The Problems

Session 14  GENERAL SEMINAR:

Session 15  Ethics of Life and Death-Issues, Ideas:  
Coding and Not Coding: Protocols, Policies

Session 16  CASE STUDY--IN CLASS

Session 17  Ethics of Life and Death-Issues, Ideas:  
Kidney Transplant or...?  
[VC 1666, Ground Rounds, Loyola]

Session 18  UNIT FINAL

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BIBLIOGRAPHY/READING

Konald, Donald. "Codes of Medical Ethics: History."  

Harron, Burnside, Beauchamp, Chapter 1 "Making Moral Decisions."

Curran, Charles. "Roman Catholicism."  
Encyclopedia of Bioethics, 4, pp.1522-34.

Jakobovits, Immanuel. "Judaism."  
Encyclopedia of Bioethics, 2, pp. 791-802.

Johnson, James. "Protestantism: History of Protestant Medical Ethics."  
Encyclopedia of Bioethics, 4, pp.1364-73.

Harron, Burnside, Beauchamp, Chapter 5 "Informed Consent. . . ."


Foot, Philippa. "Active Euthanasia with Parental Consent."  

Harron, Burnside, Beauchamp, Chapter 3 "Euthanasia. . . ."

Jonsen, Albert. "Right to Health-Care Services."  
Encyclopedia of Bioethics, 2, pp.623-629.