COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Whereas in Medical Ethics I (Course FCPM 205-A) the aim was to introduce as well as sensitize the student to a broad spectrum of ethical issues in medicine and to offer a general methodology for resolving perceived dilemmas, the objective in this second-level course is to examine selected topics in greater depth. The philosophical and theological question underlying the Course as a whole is: What is it that characterizes and constitutes the humanum--what is it that makes us peculiarly human beings? This question will be seen as lying at the root of the ethical issues in biomedicine selected for close scrutiny. We shall be looking at some of the answers that have been given to it by scientists, clinicians, and those whose perspective is that of the humanities (as well as attempting to formulate some answers of our own) in the discussion of the topics to be dealt with in the Course.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:

We will work primarily with the following texts (all of which are on Reserve in the Lane Library) using xeroxed articles (to be supplied to the students at cost) as supplementary materials:


Jeff Lyon, Playing God in the Nursery. New York: W. W. Norton and


COURSE OUTLINE WITH SUGGESTED READINGS:

April 1 Introduction to the Course:

1. Methodology and Ethical Theories

2. What is it that characterizes and constitutes the humanum? What capacities and qualities are minimally necessary for a human life?

3. Views of the humanum underlying the discussion of ethical issues in genetics, neonatology, heart and heart-lung transplantation, AIDS, and cost-containment.


Rhinelander Stevenson

April 8 Framework for Discussion of Ethical Issues in Genetics

Readings:


Shaw/Doudera, Part 5: The Future; Chapter 15, pp. 303-313.

April 15 Ethical Issues in Genetics

**M106** Ronald W. Davis, Ph.D.
Professor of Biochemistry

April 22 Framework for Discussion of Ethical Issues in Neonatal Intensive Care

**M106** Intensive Care

Readings:


Encyclopedia, "Infants: Medical Aspects and Ethical Dilemmas;" "Ethical Perspectives on
Ernle W. D. Young, Societal Provision for the Long-Term Needs of the Mentally and Physically Disabled. in Britain and Sweden, Relative to Decision-Making in Newborn Intensive Care Units. World Rehabilitation Fund, Monograph #25.
Jeff Lyon, Playing God in the Nursery.
Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer. Should the Baby Live? The Problem of Handicapped Infants.

April 29 Ethical Issues in Neonatal Intensive Care
David K. Stevenson, M.D.
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

May 6 Framework for Discussion of Ethical Issues with respect to AIDS

Readings:

May 13 Ethical Issues with Respect to AIDS
Dennis J. McShane, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
May 20 Framework for Discussion of Ethical Issues in Heart, Heart-Lung, and Artificial Heart Transplantation

Readings:


May 27 Ethical Issues in Heart, Heart-Lung, and Artificial Heart Transplantation
Barton J. Bernstein. Ph.D.
Professor of History

June 3 Economics and Ethics
Alain C. Enthoven. Ph.D.
M.S. Eccles Professor,
Graduate School of Business

Readings:


An informal pot-luck will follow our final class session. Details to be arranged and announced.

CREDIT FOR THE COURSE:

Three units of credit will be given for informed participation in the class discussions--giving evidence that the texts have been read. Additionally, a term paper on the humanum and any ethical issues in medicine is required. The topic should be agreed upon by the student and the instructor no later than May 6. The paper should be submitted not later than June 3.