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Community Medicine 411  
ETHICS AND MEDICINE: A SURVEY

Description:

This is a survey course designed to explore a series of moral issues in medicine as seen through the eyes of playwrights. Class discussion will focus on selected moral issues within the patient/physician relationship and selected moral issues of social significance as they are reflected in scripts.

Objectives:

1. Acquaint the student with the resources for understanding the ethical issues in medicine.

2. Encourage and stimulate the student to engage in ethical reflection on health care and research in medicine.

Requirements:

1. Regular attendance and participation in class.

2. Reading of assigned literature.

3. Preparation of two case studies of between 3-5 pages in length. Students will evaluate each other's commentaries.

4. Candidates for honors should prepare a research paper in consultation with the instructor.

Class Schedule:

Tuesday, May 27  
Organizational Meeting

Monday, June 2  
Introduction to Ethics and Bioethics  
Read: Beauchamp and Walters, Contemporary Issues in Bioethics pp. 1-43

Tuesday, June 3  
Introduction to Ethics and Bioethics  
Read: Beauchamp and McCullough, Medical Ethics, pp. 1-51

Monday, June 9  
"Nuts," Tom Topor

Tuesday, June 10  
"A Day in the Death of Joe Egg," Peter Nichols
Monday, June 16
"The Shadow Box," Michael Cristofer

Tuesday, June 17
"Nevis Mountain Dew," Steve Carter

Monday, June 23
Case study due and class discussion

Tuesday, June 24
"Night Mother," Marsha Norman

Monday, June 30
"An Enemy of the People," Henrik Ibsen

Tuesday, July 1
"The Doctor's Dilemma, George B. Shaw

Monday, July 7
"As Is," William M. Hoffman

Tuesday, July 8
"The Normal Heart," Larry Kramer

Monday, July 14
Case study due and class discussion

Tuesday, July 15
Concluding Discussion
TEXTS

Peter Nichols, "A Day the Death of Joe Egg"
George Bernard Shaw, "The Doctors Dilemma"
Michael Cristofer, "The Shadow Box"
Tom Topor, "Nuts"
Marsha Norman, "'night, Mother"
Steve Carter, "Nevis Mountain Dew"
William M. Hoffman, "As Is"
Henrik Ibsen, "An Enemy of the People"
Larry Kramer, "The Normal Heart"