Course Description:

In this course both traditional and contemporary ethical theory are critically examined and applied to moral problems in medicine, occasionally through the medium of case studies. Ethical theories are tested for their philosophical adequacy, and the analysis of moral problems in contemporary medical practice and public policy is emphasized together with the analysis of the theories.

Principal Books:

T. Beauchamp & J. Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics: B-C
T. Beauchamp & L. McCullough, Medical Ethics: B-Mc
Robert M. Veatch, A Theory of Medical Ethics: Veatch

Topics by Week:

1. **The Task of Constructing a Moral Theory and the Types of Ethical Theory** (Jan. 17, 19)
   Class Lecture (Pertinent Readings under Week II)
   B-C, Chaps. 1-2.
   Veatch, Chap. 5 (and refer to Chaps. 1-4 as needed).

2. **The Task of Constructing a Theory of Biomedical Ethics and the Place of Principles in a Theory of Biomedical Ethics** (Jan. 24, 26)
   Veatch, Chap. 7 (and skim Chap. 6, assigned below).
   Veatch Article (Table only), from "The Ethics of Resource Allocation in Critical Care," Critical Care Clinics 2 (1), Jan. 1986, p. 75.
   B-Mc, Chap. 1.

   **Film:** "The Belmont Report: Basic Ethical Principles and Their Application" (34 min.)

3. **The Principle of Autonomy** (Jan. 31, Feb. 2)
   Veatch, Chap. 8.
   B-Mc, Chap. 2.

   **Film:** "Please Let Me Die" (55 min.)
4. Informed Consent (Feb. 7, 9)
   B-C, Chap. 3, 66-105.
   Veatch, Chap. 9.
   B-Mc, Chap. 3.

   Film: "Discussions in Bioethics--The Courage of One's Convictions" (15 min.)

5. The Principle of Justice (Feb. 14, 16)
   B-C, Chap. 6, pp. 184-201
   Veatch, Chap. 11.

   Film: "Dying for Health Care" (60 min.)

6. Health-Care Allocation (Feb. 21, 23)
   B-C, Chap. 6, pp. 201-20.
   Allen Buchanan, "The Right to a Decent Minimum," from Philosophy and Public Affairs (on reserve).

   Film: "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Decides--Allocation of Health Care Resources" (60 min., cut to 30 min.)

7. The Principle of Nonmaleficence (Feb. 28, March 2)
   B-C, Chap. 4, pp. 106-15; Chap. 5, pp. 148-49.
   Veatch, Chap. 6, 145-47, 159-69, Chap. 10.

   Film: "The Earl Spring Case" (55 min.)

8. Death and Dying (March 14, 16)
   B-C, Chap. 4, pp. 115-47.

   Film: "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Decides?--Prolongation of Life" (60 min., cut to 30 min.)

9. The Principle of Beneficence (March 28, 30)
   Veatch, Chap. 6 (all remaining pages); Chap. 13.
   B-C, Chap. 5 (and review pp. 149-160).

   Film: "An Institutional Response to AIDS" (17 min.)

10. Paternalism and Diminished Competence (April 4, 6)
    B-Mc, Chaps. 4-5.

    Film: "Dax's Case" (58 min.)

11. The Patient/Professional Relationship (April 11, 13)
   B-C, Chap. 7, pp. 239-50; Chapter 8.
   Veatch, Chap. 12.

   **Film:** "Code Gray" (28 min.)

13. **New Frontiers: Genetics and Biotechnology** (April 25, 27)

   **Film:** "The Genetic Gamble" (58 min.)

**Mid-Term Examination:** Tuesday, March 21 (Entire class period)

**Requirements:** There will be a Mid-Term Exam and a Final Exam, but you have two options in regard to grades and requirements:

1. You can take only the mid-term and the final. In that case, your grade will be determined solely by these two tests.
2. You can take the mid-term and the final, and in addition write an extra-credit paper. In that case you may substitute the grade on your paper for the lowest of the two grades on the exams. To qualify for this option you must make at least a C on the Final Examination.