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The Ethics of Terminal Care  
179-548-01 (1990)

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 these issues combining lecture, discussion, and film. 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 6 during the first hour of class and a final exam.

Primary texts for the course will be:


For reference you may want to consult:


Some of the readings for this course will be available in a reading packet from Kinko's. Those are marked with an (*). Other readings can be found in the following anthologies. In the reading list they are identified by the editors' names in brackets.


Phil. 179-548-01 The Ethics of Terminal Care

Jan 23    Introduction: Film "Who Shall Survive?"
Jan 30    Definition of Death
Feb  6    What to Tell the Dying Patient and Informed Consent
Feb 13    Suicide
Feb 20    Videotape: "Please Let Me Die" (Check for room)

The Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients: Videotape "Please Let Me Die."

1. Active killing and letting die//Direct/indirect
2. Ordinary and Extraordinary Means
3. Withholding Food, Fluids, and Medications

MID-TERM EXAM

Mar 20    Formerly Competent Patients: Living Wills/Powers of Attorney/Natural Death Acts
Mar 27    The Role of Guardians (Quinlan, Saikewicz, Dinnerstein, Becker, Cruzan)
Apr  3    The Role of Guardians (continued)
Apr 10    Hospital Ethics Committees
Apr 17    Neonates and the Baby Doe Rule
Apr 24    The Social Ethics of Terminal Care: Resource Allocation
May  1    The Social Ethics of Terminal Care: The Role of Age
Reading List

Jan 23-30: Definition of Death

Reading


Additional Reading


Feb 6: What to Tell the Dying Patient and Informed Consent

Reading


Additional Reading


Feb 13: Suicide

Reading


Additional Reading


Feb 20: Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients
1. Active Killing and Letting Die
Direct/Indirect Killing

Videotape: "Please Let Me Die"

Reading


Additional Reading


Feb 27: The Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients
2. Ordinary and Extraordinary Means

Reading


Pope Pius XII. "The Prolongation of Life: An Address of Pope Pius XII to an International Congress of Anesthesiologists." The Pope Speaks 4 (1956):393-398. [Reiser, Horan, O'Rourke]


Additional Reading


War 06: Withholding Food, Fluids, CPR, and Medications

Reading


Additional Reading


Cruzan, by Cruzan v. Harmon 76 S.W.2d 408 (Mo. banc 1988).
Mar 20: Formerly Competent Patients: Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Natural Death Acts

Reading


*In the Matter of Eichner v. Dillon. 426: NYS 2d 517.
*Concern for Dying. "A Living Will." No date. [Beauchamp and Walters, 1982]
In re Quinlan. 70 N.J. 10, 355 A. 2d 647 (1976) [Beauchamp and Perlin; Shannon; Arras and Rhoden].

Additional Reading


Reading


Superintendent of Belchnertown State School v. Saikewicz. 370 NE 2d 417, 1977. [Beauchamp and Walters, 1962; Shannon; Arras and Rhodenj

Cruzan, by Cruzan v. Harmon 76 S.W.2d 406 (Mo. banc 1980).


Additional Reading


Reading


Additional 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
Apr 17: Neonates and the Baby Doe Rule

Reading


Additional Reading


Apr 24: The Social Ethics of Terminal Care: Resource Allocation

Reading


Additional Reading


May 1: The Social Ethics of Terminal Care: The Role of Age

Reading


Additional Reading


