BITC 401 THEORIES OF BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

This paper introduces students to major theories in biomedical ethics, and familiarises them with commonly used language and concepts. The implications of these theories for specific issues in biomedical ethics are then explored in a seminar format.

The course involves weekly seminars. Initial seminars, introducing bioethics, will be presented by staff. Subsequent seminars will be led by students, who will then write up their presentations in essay form. Students are given the opportunity to select the topics they wish to research. The attached reading list offers a range of topics with associated reading. Students may select additional topics in consultation with staff.

Assessment:

1. internal assessment
   * 40% of final mark.
   * two essays, of equal value, written following presentation of a seminar

2. finals exam
   * a three hour exam contributing to 60% of final mark

Resources

The Reading list provides initial reading on a range of topics.

The journals Hastings Centre report, Bioethics, Bulletin of Medical Ethics, Second Opinion and Journal of Medical Ethics are particularly recommended for additional reading. The Bibliography of Bioethics will assist you is finding further specialist articles.
### Theories of Biomedical Ethics - BITC 401

#### Preliminary Reading
- **RC** Reasonable Care, G. Gillett, Bristol Classical Press.
- **PME** Practical Medical Ethics, Campbell, Gillett & Jones, O.U.P.

#### General Reading
- **PBME** Principles of Biomedical Ethics, Beauchamp & Childress, O.U.P.
- **MPM** Moral problems in medicine, ed. Gorowitz et al, Prentice-Hall.
- **CDSL** Causing Death and saving lives, Glover, Penguin
- **JME** Journal of Medical Ethics vol/part/page
- **HCR** Hastings Centre Report
- **OMM** On Moral Medicine, ed. Lammers and Verhay, Eerdmans
- **CIB** Contemporary Issues in Bioethics, ed Beauchamp & Walters, Wadsworth
- **BNP** Bioethics - a Nursing Perspective, Megan Jane-Johnson, W.B. Saunders
- **FP** Feminist Perspectives in Medical Ethics, ed Holmes and Purdy., Indiana Univ Press
- **NLP** No longer Patient, Sherwin, Temple University Press

#### Seminar Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 What is ethics?</strong></td>
<td>RC Ch 1; PBME Ch 1, 2; CDSL Ch2; BNP. Ch 2, 3,4; PME Ch1</td>
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<td><strong>2 What is a person?</strong></td>
<td>RC Ch 4</td>
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<td><strong>3 Autonomy:</strong></td>
<td>MPM Ch2 part 1; CDSL Ch5; PBME Ch 3</td>
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<td><strong>4 Beneficence:</strong></td>
<td>How do we judge what is of benefit to a person? PBME Ch4, 5;</td>
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<td><strong>5 The professional relationship:</strong></td>
<td>What is the professional's relationship to his/her patient: friend, contractor, authority figure or what? JME 13/1.34; MPM Ch2 part 2; OMM Ch16; RC Ch2; PME Ch2.</td>
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<td><strong>6 Consent to treatment</strong></td>
<td>Should patients give Informed consent to any treatment which is proposed for them? MPM Ch3 part 1; CIB Ch.4 parts only; JME 3/3.9/1. 11/3.115; RC Ch3 p42ff; PME Ch2, FP p169ff, p216ff</td>
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<td><strong>7 Telling the truth:</strong></td>
<td>Should a patient be told bad news about his/her conditions and if so, are there any limits on how and when this should be done? JME 11/3.153; OMM #86; MPM Ch3 part 2; JME 8/3; RC Ch6 p91ff, PME Ch2</td>
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<td><strong>8 Confidentiality:</strong></td>
<td>Does the doctor have an absolute duty to protect a patient's confidentiality? MPM Ch3 part 3; CIB Ch4 part 4. JME 11/2.100, 11/1.8, 12/3.117,14/2.87; RC p53ff; PME Ch2</td>
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<td><strong>9 Patient's rights:</strong></td>
<td>What rights should a patient have? CIB p38ff. p44ff. CDSL Ch5; CIB Ch4 part 2; JME 10/3</td>
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<td><strong>10 Rights to health care:</strong></td>
<td>Do patients have a right to a certain level of health care? Can a patient ever demand a certain treatment? CIB p38ff. p44ff; CDSL Ch 5; OMM Ch19; MPM Ch5 pt 2; JME 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/4, 6/4,7/3; BNP Ch6</td>
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11 Allocation of resources:
Should doctors make decisions about which patients get treated?
Should the treatment of one patient depend on his/her relative needs and the availability of certain resources for all?
CIB pt IV, CDSL Ch16, 17; OMM Ch19; JME2/4,4/4,4/9,1/2, 12/4, RC Ch9.

12 When is a person dead?
What is the ethical basis for brain death?
Is there a difference between the death of a person and the death of a human being?
OMM Ch9 (MA5); CIB Ch6; JME 2/1, 2/2,3/1,8/4,9/1, 12/2, 13/1; RC p62ff; p93ff.

13 The dying patient:
What ethical issues arise in the care of a patient who is dying?
OMM Ch6; JME 3/1, 3/2, 3/4, 5/2, 7/1, 10/3,11/2,13/2, RC Ch6; BNP Ch9

14 Euthanasia:
Is there a difference between killing and letting die?
What should our approach be to the patient who wants to have life ended by his/her doctor?
Should a patient have a right to ask for and receive active euthanasia?
CDSLCh814'O MMM Ch14' CIB Ch7
JME 1/1,3/1,5/4,6/2,7/2,8/2, 13/2, 14/2;
RC Ch6; PME Ch8

15 Selective non-treatment of children:
Are there some children who should receive no medical treatment?
Can we ever deny treatment to a child on the basis of a poor quality of life?
CIB Ch7, CDSL Ch3, 12;
JME 5/2,5/3,7/1,7/3,8/1,9/1,10/2,12/2, 14/1;
OMM #76, #79; OMM Ch15; Paediatrics (1983) 72/1 P 128.

16 Child abuse:
What ethical Issues are raised by child abuse? At what age does a child become eligible to fall under the child abuse legislation?
OMM #76~ #79; Child Abuse -NZ Police;
JME 7/3,10/2,11/3.138; RC Ch5, PME Ch5

17 Abortion:
‘Abortion is a matter of a woman having control over her own body and life’ comment. Is there such a thing as the rights of the unborn child? JME 11/4.198, 12/3.143, 13/1.69, see index; HCR 21 (1) 20 (2)
CDSL CH 9, 10, 11; CIB Ch5; OMM Ch13; RC p80ff; BNP Ch8.

18 New birth technologies:
What ethical constraints If any, ought to apply to the development and use of new birth technologies such as IVF, AIDS, surrogacy and so on?
Should we experiment on foetuses and embryos?
CIB Ch12; OMM Ch11, JME 1/1,1/2,4/4,
9/4,10/1,10/2,12/1; RC p87ff; PME Ch4,
FPp169ff.

19 Genetic counseling:
What are the benefits, dangers and ethical issues that arise from genetic counselling and control?
JME 8/4,10/2; OMM Ch12; CIB Ch12;

20 Organ donation:
Under what conditions should Individuals be able to give and receive organs from others?
NPB Ch9; HCR 19 (5), 21 (6), May. William The Patients Ordeal, Ch.10;
JME 17/2, 16/3

21 Industrial relations in medicine:
When are doctors justified in taking industrial action?

22 Medical Research
PME Ch 6

23 AIDS:
What are the particular ethical Issues raised in diagnosis. treatment and care of AIDS patients.
JME 15/2 16/4 PME Ch 9

24 Psychiatric ethics
PME Chl0; Psychiatric Ethics Bloch & Chodoff

25 Feminist Ethics:
FP, NLP, Second Opinion 17 (2)

26 Nursing Ethics
BNP JME 12/3

Compiled by:
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