COURSE NUMBER: NURS-517/CNED-517

COURSE TITLE: Clinical Ethics: Theory and Practice

ALLOCATION OF CREDIT: 2 Semester Hours

PLACE IN CURRICULUM: Fall and Spring

FACULTY: Carol Taylor, PhD Candidate, MSN, RN

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: Nurses, physicians, social workers, pastoral caregivers, and clinical ethicists are in a unique position to influence health care by participating responsibly in ethical decisionmaking at the micro (bedside) and macro (health policy) levels. In this course a lecture and case analysis format will be used to introduce a broad range of clinical ethical issues and to present the theoretical and practical knowledge that will enable practitioners to provide leadership in responding to the ethical challenges confronting the health care system today. This course will facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and explore the strengths different health care professions bring to ethical dialogue. [Limited to 30]

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast five contemporary approaches to bioethics: principle-based ethics, virtue-based ethics, casuistry, feminist/caring/existential ethics, and theological ethics.

2. Evaluate the claim that the character of health care professionals as moral agents is as important as their actions.
3. Differentiate ethics, law, religion, and culture as sources of moral norms.

4. Formulate an ethical framework which facilitates identification and resolution of ethical dilemmas.

5. Design a process of clinical ethical decisionmaking that facilitates a) identification of appropriate decisionmakers, b) the process of deciding among therapeutic options, and c) prevention and resolution of ethical conflict.


**TOPICAL OVERVIEW:**

**Class 1. Ethical Theory I**

09-01-93 Levels of Ethical Analysis (Metaphysical Questions, Epistemological Questions, Normative Ethics: Action-Guiding and Character-Guiding Theories); Approaches to Ethics: Principle-Based Ethics, Virtue-Based Ethics, Casuistry, Feminist/Caring/Existentialist Theories, Theological Ethics; Relationships among Ethics, Law, Religion, Culture.

**Class 2. Ethical Theory II**

09-08-93 Principle-Based Ethics vs the Care Perspective: Case Illustrations

**Class 3. Professional Ethics**

09-15-93 Guest Faculty: E.D. Pellegrino, M.D.

Codes of Professional Ethics, the Health Care Professional-Patient Relationship, "Internal Morality" of a Profession, Ethical Integrity/Autonomy of Individual Professionals.

**Class 4. Clinical Ethics I**

09-22-93 Models of Health Care Decisionmaking; Identifying the Appropriate Decisionmaker, Determining What is in the Patient's Best Overall Interests, Preventing/Resolving Conflict; The Ethics Case Work-Up; Ethics Committees

**Class 5. Clinical Ethics II**

09-29-93 Guest Faculty: Felicia Nokes, MSW, LCISW, pediatric social worker; Leslie Zients, MSW, LGSW and Mary Ann Buckley, BA, LSW A, adult social workers

Case Presentations
Class 6. Health Care, Economics, and Justice  
10-06-93 Guest Faculty: Dan Sulmasy, M.D.  
Is Health Care a Right? Ethical Critique of Proposals for Health Care Reform; Obligations of Health Care Professionals as Members of a Moral Community;  
Guest Faculty: Lynn Lewis, MSW, LICSW and Monica Micklos, MSW, LGSW  
Resource Availability and Ethical Dilemmas; Case Presentation

Class 7. Law and Bioethics  
10-13-93 Guest Faculty: Sheila Cohen Zimmet, Esq.  
Law as a source of moral norms; The Court's Role in Resolving Difficult Cases; Precedent-setting Legal Cases; Physicians' Legal Defensiveness and Knowledge of Medical Law

Class 8. Ethics and Reproductive Choices  
10-20-93 Guest Faculty: Michaela Donohue, CNM, MSN  
Reproductive Choice; Reproductive Technologies; Prenatal Diagnosis and Therapy; Genetic Counselling; Maternal-Fetal Conflict.

Class 9. Ethics and Neonatal/Pediatric Care  
10-29-93 Treatment Decisions for Severely Impaired Newborns and Critically and Chronically Ill Children; Baby Doe Legislation and Regulations; Parental Autonomy; Child Abuse and Neglect Statutes

Class 10. Ethics and Mental Health  
11-03-93 Guest Faculty: Stephen Green, M.D.  
Constitutional and statutory issues; Voluntary and Involuntary Hospitalization Treatment Modalities; Psychopharmacology; Use of Restraints and Other Coercive Measures; Rational Suicide; Psychiatric Considerations when Assessing Decisionmaking Capacity to Consent to and Refuse Treatment

Class 11. Ethics and Health Care for the Elderly  
11-10-93 Guest Faculty: John Collins Harvey, M.D.  
Ageism; Autonomy Considerations for the Elderly; Age-based Rationing; Determinants of the Goal(s) of Medicine

Class 12. Ethics and End of Life Treatment Decisions  
11-17-93 Defining/Determining Terminal Illness, "Terminal Condition," Persistent Vegetative State, Locked-in-Syndrome, Death; Withholding/Withdrawing Treatment Issues; Medical Futility; "Aid-in-
Dying": Assisted Suicide and Death by Lethal Injection; Feeding Issues; Advance Directives
Guest Faculty: Rima Finzi-Strauss, MSW, LCISW and Carol Mansfield, MSW, LCISW
Case Presentations

Class 13. Ethics Case Consultation
[N.B. Class will not meet this week to allow time to do your case analysis and consultation.]

Class 14. Ethics and HIV Infection
12-01-93 AIDS testing (Patient/Health Care Provider Issues and Mandatory vs. Voluntary and Targeted vs. Universal Issues); Confidentiality; Duty to Treat; Discrimination; Advance Directives/Surrogate Decision Makers; Suicide; Employment Issues; OSHA Guidelines

Class 15. Ethics and Genetics
12-08-93 Guest Faculty: Judith Benkendorf, M.S.
Ethical Issues Related to the Human Genome Project: Discrimination/Fairness, Privacy/Confidentiality, Personal Health/Lifestyle Testing, Resource Allocation; Ethical Issues in Genetic Counselling; Ethics and Gene Therapy

TEACHING STRATEGIES: Lectures, group discussions, and case analysis

EVALUATION METHODS:
- Participation in case analysis/discussion 30%
- Written Ethics Case Work-Up 30%
- Written Ethics Case Consultation 10%
- Final Examination 30%

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:


STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS:

Class 1. Ethical Theory I

Careful reading of either [B&C] pages 3-62 or [M] pages 1-45. *Course texts are on reserve in the KIE Bioethics Library (1st Floor, Healy Hall) and articles are on reserve in the bioethics library and Lauinger.*

Class 2. Ethical Theory II

Read chapters 3-6 of [B&C] and pages 264-276+ of [M] to gain an understanding of the role principles play in bioethics;

For a critique of principlism read:

For a discussion of the care perspective in medicine and nursing read:
Taylor, C. Nursing ethics: The role of caring. *AWHONN's Clinical Issues in Perinatal and Women's Health Nursing, [In Press]*.

Class 3. Professional Ethics

Read [P&T] chapters 8-10; reread your professional code of ethic and compare it with that of other health care professionals

Class 4. Clinical Ethics I

Read:

Class 5. Clinical Ethics II

1) Using the ethics work-up distributed in the previous class, prepare a typed, four to six page ethics case work-up on one of the cases in the Munson anthology termed "Decision Scenarios" (include references).

2) Use the BIOETHICSLINE database (accessed through the National Library of Medicine's MEDLARS system) to computer search the major ethical issue presented in the case you select. Be prepared to cite pertinent ethical literature in the case discussion.
3) Come to class prepared to participate in the deliberations of an ethics committee which is meeting to discuss a prepared case.

Class 6. Health Care, Economics, and Justice

Recommended:

Class 7. Law and Bioethics

Read:

Class 8. Ethics and Reproductive Choices

Recommended:


Class 9. Ethics and Neonatal/Pediatric Care


Class 10. Ethics and Mental Health


Class 11. Ethics and Health Care for the Elderly

Recommended:


Class 12. Ethics and End of Life Treatment Decisions

Read [M] pages 142-199.

Recommended:


Class 13. Ethics Case Consultation

Select a case from your clinical practice that poses ethical challenges and prepare a typed, two-page ethical consult. Submit this on December 1, 1993.

Class 14. Ethics and HIV Infection


Read:


Recommended:
Class 15. Ethics and Genetics

Read [M] pages 403-454.

Recommended:

*Item on reserve in Lauinger and available in bioethics library.
**Item available in bioethics library only.