Phil 107-01  
Medical Ethics  
TTH 10:00-11:15  
351 ColH

Professor C.D. Keyes  
Office: 535 CH  
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Office Hours: T 11:15-12:15

OBJECTIVES:

The course analyzes the foundations, methods, and principles of medical ethics. It will study these topics in relation to specific cases and some of the most recent developments in medical and surgical technology. The course has two main purposes. First, it examines the practical ethical concerns of health professionals. Second, it interprets what the conflicts at the base of these professional concerns reveal about the value of life and the nature of ethical judgment in general.

Students who take the course will learn:

1. to use different ethical methods, such as deontology (judgment based on duty) and consequentialism (judgment based on probable effects);

2. to understand the basic principles and rules of medical ethics and different views about how they apply to specific situations;

3. to analyze, discuss, and give a rational, coherent argument for their own position in reference to case studies concerning: brain death, euthanasia, new reproductive technologies, transplantation, social responsibility in the allocation of scarce resources, proxy decisions, patient's rights, and the responsibilities of health care professionals; and

4. to evaluate some theories about the foundations of medical ethics.
TEXTBOOKS:


Paul D. MacLean, M.D. (Senior Research Scientist, National Institute of Mental Health). *Selected Essays on the Biological Foundations of Ethics*, to be provided in class.


METHOD:

Lectures will be given on Tuesdays and some Thursdays. Most Thursday classes will be used for discussion of cases in the book edited by Crigger indicated below by *.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Each part will determine 25% of the course grade:

- Examination (October 12)
- Participation
- Term paper (due in class on November 18)
- Final examination

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

The participation grade will be determined by attendance at lectures and discussions and by the quality of reports on cases in class and discussion of them.

Both examinations and the term paper will be based, in part, on lecture material not contained in the texts.
I. INTRODUCTORY LECTURES
   August 31, September 2, 7, 14, and 21
   A. Definition of Ethics
   B. Five Questions of Ethics (Veatch, pp. 1-14)
      1. What Makes Right Acts Right?
      2. To Whom Is Moral Duty Owed?
      3. What Kind of Acts Are Right?
      4. How Do Rules Apply to Specific Situations?
      5. What Ought To Be Done In Specific Cases?
   C. Principles and Rules of Medical Ethics
      (Veatch and Beauchamp/Childress)
      1. The Tradition of Hippocrates
         a.) Professional Beneficence Etc.
         b.) Patient Autonomy
         c.) Professional-Patient Relationships
      2. Social Responsibility: Distinctive Justice
   * Group Discussions (September 9, 16, and 23)

   Crigger, Part One: "Health Care Professionals' Responsibilities and Patient's Rights"

   Crigger, Part Five: "Mental Incompetence"
   Crigger, Part Six: "Allocation and Health Care Policy", Sections 1 and 3

II. Ethical Concerns in Three New Types of Medical and Surgical Technology (Keyes)
   A. Lectures on Death and Dying
      September 28 and October 5
      1. Euthanasia
      2. Brain Death
   * Group Discussions (September 30 and October 7)

   Crigger, Part Three: "Death and Dying"
Examination (October 12): This will consist of essay and short answer questions on the lectures and selected cases in the first and fifth parts of Crigger.

B. Lectures on Reproduction Rights and Technologies
   (October 19, 21, and November 2)
   1. When Does Human Life Begin?
   2. New Reproduction Technologies

* Group Discussions (October 14, 21, and 28)

   Crigger, Part Two: "Reproductive Rights and Technologies"

C. Lectures on Transplantation and Research on Human Subjects
   1. Four Ethical Issues (November 9)
   2. Self-Identity (November 9)
   3. Transplantation Into the Brain (November 16)

* Group Discussions (November 4 and 11)

   Crigger, Part Four: "Research with Living Subjects"
   Crigger, Part Six: "Allocation and Health Care Policy", Section 2

III. What Makes Right Acts Right?

A. Lectures on Types of Metaethics (November 18)

B. Lectures on Paul D. MacLean's Neurobiological Foundations of Ethics (November 23, 30, December 2, 7, and 9)

Term paper (due in class on November 18): This will include analysis of selected cases in Crigger in relation to (1) issues in class discussions about those cases, (2) lectures on social responsibility and other related principles, and (3) the student's interpretation of these issues and principles.

Final examination (as scheduled by the University): This will consist of essay and short answer questions on the lectures and readings from the required texts.