Course Number: N. 337-026

Course Title: Ethical Issues in Contemporary Health Care

Credit /Clock Hours: 3 credit hours (3 class -0 lab)

Prerequisite: Completion of Junior year

Faculty: Ferne Kyba, RN, Pill
Assistant Professor

Description of Course: Examines philosophic foundations of ethical decision making in contemporary health care. Methods of moral reasoning based upon traditional ethical frameworks will be applied to selected ethical issues.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. identify major ethical issues in contemporary health care.
2. describe traditional frameworks of moral reasoning.
3. describe an ethical decision making process for moral deliberation.
4. apply ethical principles and rules to selected ethical problems in health care.
5. support or refute, through critical analysis, various alternatives available for resolving selected ethical problems in health care.
6. clarify own attitudes, beliefs, values and commitments with respect to ethical issues in health care.

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, guest speakers, small group discussion, audio-visual media, selected readings, case study analyses, simulated case conferences, written assignments, and individualized faculty/student conferences.
Evaluation Methods:

The course grade will be based upon the following assignments:

- Defining a moral conflict case = 10%
  (Develop a case = 5% ; critique of case = 5%)
- Commentaries / in class exercises (3 x 5%) = 15%
- One examination (in class) = 40%
- Debate, case or issue presentation = 35%

Grading Criteria:

90 -100 = A; 80 -89 = B; 70 -79 = C; 60 -69 = D; 0 -59 = F

Required Textbook:


Supplemental Reference:

Code of Ethics: Student should have available a copy of a self-selected professional code of ethics (dentistry, medicine, nursing, social work, or other.)

Journals:

Selected articles will be assigned as required and recommended reading from classic and current journal literature related to the designated weekly topic schedule.

Current Issues:

Clippings from current newspapers and news magazines will be used for topical discussions.
Proposed Topical Outline:

Introduction to the Philosophic Foundation of Health Care
  Bioethics, Health Care Ethics, Medical Ethics, and Nursing Ethics
  The Nature of Professional/Patient Relationship

Traditional Frameworks for Ethical Decision Making
  Virtue Ethics, Deontological Ethics, Utilitarian Ethics

Professional Virtue and Values Development
  Values Clarification & Cognitive Moral Development
  Influence of Labeling, Semantics and Jargon in Health Care
  Codes of Ethics as Normative Professional Obligations

Ethical Principles and Rules: Their Application
  Autonomy, Beneficence/Nonmaleficence, Justice
  Fidelity, Veracity, Advocacy, and Caring

Resolving Moral Problems in Health Care
  A Procedural Model for Ethical Decision Making
  Interdisciplinary Decision Making in Ethical Dilemmas
  Selected Case Applications: Confidentiality & Truth-telling, Informed Consent,
  Paternalism

Selected Sexual and Reproduction Issues in Health Care
  Genetic Screening; Abortion; Prenatal, Fetal and Neonatal Issues; S-o-gacy, In Vitro
  Fertilization

Defining Death and Facing the Dying Process
  Criteria for Determining Death
  Advance Directives
  Terminating Life-sustaining Treatment
  Nutrition and Hydration: Special Considerations
  Active and Passive Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide

Allocating Scarce Health Care Resources
  Microallocation Issues
  Macroallocation Issues

Course Summation
  Health Care Rights and Obligations: Providers and Consumers
  Common Themes in Contemporary Health Care
Examples of Topics for Student Debates, Presentations

Behavior Control Issues
   Physical restraints
   Chemical restraints

Chemical Addiction
   Treatment Issues
   Addiction and Pregnancy

Interprofessional and Intraprofessional Issues
   Substance Abusing Professionals
   Incompetent Practitioners
   Lying/Stealing/ Conflicts of Interest
   Conscientious Refusal

Organ Transplant Decisions
   Multiple Organ Recipients
   Commercial Organ Donors
   Anencephalic Babies as Donors

Research Issues
   Use of Animals
   Subjects Who Cannot Give Informed Consent
   Special Concerns: e.g. AIDS, RU486
   Human Genome Project - Patenting of Genes

Others as suggested by students or selected issues from topic outline
Bibliography

Required Textbook and Resource

Code of Ethics: Student should have available a copy of a self-selected professional code of ethics (dentistry, medicine, nursing, social work, or other.)


Resource Books and Monographs for Reference


**The University of Texas at Arlington**  
**School of Nursing**  
**N. 3337 Ethical Issues in Contemporary Health Care Elective**  
**Class Schedule, Summer 1995**  
**Monday and Wednesday, 1 - 4:30 Room 223**

**Faculty:**  
**Feme Kyba, RN, Pill**  
UTA Office NURS 526  
Phone: (817) 273-2776 ext.4854  
Home: (817) 451-6586

**Office Hours:** Mon. 11:00 -1:00 pm, Wed. 10 -11:30 and by appointment

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**Wednesday, May 31**  
Introductions; Orientation to the Course

*Homework Assignment: Prepare Moral Conflict Case*  
*Commentary #1 -Sources of Moral Beliefs and Values*  
*Read Chapter 1, 2,6*

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**Monday, June 5**

*Due: Moral Conflict Case*

*Sources of Moral Beliefs and Values*

I. Introduction to Health Care Ethics  
A. A Brief History of the Field  
B. Health Care Professional as Moral Agent  
C. Nature of the Professional/Patient Relationship  
D. Professional Character and Moral Development

*In-class Activity: Discussion: Sources of Moral Beliefs; Values Clarification*

*Assignment: Read Chapters 3, 4, 5*

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**Wednesday, June 7**

II. Developing an Ethical Framework for Practice  
A. An Overview of Ethical Theories  
B. Ethical Principles and Rules and their Application  
C. Professional Codes of Ethics

Assignment: Begin literature review for presentation; Read Chapter 7

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**Monday, June 12**

*Due: Topic Selection for Presentation or Debate*

D. Resolving Moral Problems in Health Care  
1. Moral Quandaries and Ethical Dilemmas  
2. The Ethical Decision Process and a Procedural Model

*In-class activity: Case Analysis -Truth-telling Case (Commentary # 2)*

*Assignment: Read Chapters 8,10,11*
Wednesday, June 14
III. Selected Ethical Issues: An Overview
   A. Common Issues: Informed Consent, Confidentiality, Truth-telling, Paternalism
   B. Reproductive and Perinatal Issues
   C. Pediatric Issues and Adolescent Issues
   D. Mental Health Issues

   In-class activity: Simulated case conference(s). (Commentary #3 - Reaction)
   Assignment: Read Chapter 9 and required articles by Kyba

Monday, June 19
Due: Commentary #3 - (Reaction)

III. E. Issues related to Death and Dying
   1. Defining Death and Facing the Dying Process

   Assignment: Read Chapter 12

Wednesday, June 21
III. E. 2. Selected Case Issues related to Death
   Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide

   Viewing and critique of video cases

Monday, June 26
Examination (Multiple Choice and Short Answer Format)

   In-class student activity: Self-Critique of Moral Conflict Case
   Presentation Preparation Session

Wednesday, June 28
III. F. Allocation of Scarce Health Care Resources

   Student Presentations

Monday, July 3
   Student Presentations

Wednesday, July 5
IV. Professional Responsibilities and Personal Challenges

   Course Summation and Evaluation