FACULTY: Winifred J. Pinch, EdD, RN, Professor
School of Nursing and
Center for Health Policy and Ethics
Office: Room 234, Criss Building
Office telephone: 2042

OFFICE HOURS: I am usually in the office from 9 AM to 3 PM except when teaching, when
meetings are scheduled (the latter is irregular), or my research day (Thursday). You
should check with the secretary if you come by and I am not in. In such cases, please
leave a note and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Feel free to call ahead and
check whether or not the time is available, or see me around class time to make an
appointment.

DESCRIPTION:

Inquiry and exploration into the problems of modern health care using ethical theories
and reflection to articulate a range of possible solutions.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To articulate various ethical perspectives as they relate to major health care issues.
2. To appreciate the breadth of the field of bioethics.
3. To know the relevant, basic health care information as it provides the parameters in
which the ethical perspectives are examined.
4. To integrate the theoretical material with discussions of case studies in health care and
pose possible alternative solutions with the rationale for their selection.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

179-198)

REQUIRED ARTICLES: Will be on reserve in Health Sciences Library as appropriate. These are
all listed under the respective units for this course. See below.
REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING:

1. Class attendance and participation in class 10%.
   This class follows the official university policy whereby class attendance is expected. A written note from the student is expected for any absence. Extended absences must be verified by a physician's note. The grade for attendance will be affected by absences.

2. Mid-semester exam 15% | Objective type exams with true/false, multiple choice, matching, and similar types of questions.

3. Final exam 20%

4. Sample exam questions, multiple-choice, 15 total, 15%.
   These questions must contain at least four choices for responses and have the correct answer indicated.

5. Selected written papers (Two total, 10% first, 15% for second).

6. Class presentation, 15%

SELECTED PAPERS

General instructions:

1. All papers are to be typed, double spaced with references included as appropriate. Always keep an extra complete copy of any paper submitted for class assignments in case of accidental loss.

2. Five page limit. Reference pages, title page, and other similar pages do not count for the page limitation.

3. Grading will be based on clarity, logical presentation of ideas, completeness, and use of text and/or other resources.

   A basic, average, clear paper with only minor errors will be a "C".

   Specific integration of the text (footnoted) and other assigned readings will help increase the paper grade to a “B”.

   Independently selected references (appropriately footnoted) are required for an "A" paper. Although these independently selected references are necessary for an "A" paper, it is also necessary to be outstanding by incorporating creative ideas, utilizing critical thinking, and writing in a logical, clear, and complete fashion.
4. Assistance in writing can be obtained from the Writing Center here on campus, #4707. Use this resource, it can be very helpful.

All students are required to complete selection #1 for paper #1. For paper #2, select one of the options: 2, 3, 4, or 5.

1. Obtain a current newspaper or newsweek article on health care (DO NOT cut articles from library copies, use copying facilities). Write a 2-3 page analysis of the article including a) identification of the moral or ethical implications of the health care issues b) possible solutions to the problem the issue creates and c) rationale (from ethics) for at least two of the solutions. Your discussion will evaluate your understanding of the material in the "Foundational" unit for this course. Maximum 5 pages.

Select one of the following four possible papers. Complete as directed.

2. Many people predict challenges to the Roe v. Wade ruling that currently forms the legal basis for abortion decisions. Write a supporting letter using ethical arguments to the Chief Justice either a) to uphold the continued use of Roe v. Wade or b) to overturn it. FORMAT EXCEPTION: This will be a typed, single-spaced letter. No more than 2 pages.

3. Given the visual form provided for you (editorial cartoon), 1) identify the ethical issue represented, 2) discuss the possible purpose of an editor including such a editorial cartoon in the paper, 3) discuss various ethical perspectives one might take in this situation, and 3) provide a possible outcome for the situation with the rationale from ethics for the action that leads to the outcome. No more than five pages.

4. Identify an individual who is 65 years old or older. Arrange to talk with this person about their future plans for health care. For example has this person made out a living will? What opinions does he/she have about treatment options, for now and later? Who will make decisions for her/him should incompetency occur? In your paper first describe the person you interview: age, sex, occupation/former occupation, place of residence, religious preference, ethnic background, marital status, health status, and financial status. Summarize your interview with this individual and identify an ethical issue inherent in the situation. Explain your identification of this issue and discuss the issue using selected ethical theories/principles. Five page maximum.

5. Using the article/story/chapter (Carter article on reserve) provided for you, respond 1) first with your intuitive reaction to the material, 2) your thoughtful, reflective response to an identifiable, ethical issue, and 3) a possible resolution to the ethical issue with a rationale for this decision. No more than 5 pages.
CLASS PRESENTATION: POINT-COUNTERPOINT-REBUTTAL

This assignment is a group effort (two to three students) focusing on a selected unit topic from the semester's schedule. Members of the group will use their assigned class time to present the ethical issue and debate alternative solutions to the issue. There should be at least three possible actions presented. After presentation of the ethical issue and the debate, about 10 minutes should be set aside for class response or participation at the end.

Schedule and Required Readings

Read each chapter in Nelson as it matches the topic of the unit. Some units do not have any content in Nelson.

Unit I - Introduction: General ethical issues in health care

Unit II - Foundations in Bioethical Decision Making


Munson, R. (1992). Intervention and reflection: Basic issues in medical ethics (pp. 1-16; 31-45), Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company. This is provided for you in class.


Class Presentation: To be arranged by each individual group.
On Wednesday **January 19**, please submit (in writing) the names of the members of your group.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 19</strong></td>
<td>1 question due (ethical theory)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 28</strong></td>
<td>1 question due (ethical principles)</td>
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<td><strong>February 2</strong></td>
<td>1 question due (scripture) and 1 question (feminist ethics)</td>
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<td><strong>February 4</strong></td>
<td>Paper #1 due</td>
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Unit III - Caring for Human Health

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Unit IV - The Humanity in Abortion


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Unit V - AIDS/HIV Infection


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Unit VI - Human Experimentation


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Unit VII - Human Factors in Reproductive Technologies


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Unit VIII - Genetics and the Control of Human Development


**March 21** 1 question due

**March 30** Paper #2 due

Unit IX - Humanizing the Dying Process


**April 6** 1 question due

Unit X - Cultural Aspects of Ethics and Health Care


There will be no class on April 11th due to a professional meeting I will be attending out of town. An alternative assignment will take the place of our regular class meeting.

**April 13** 1 question due

Unit XI - Organ Transplants -Their Human Dimensions


**April 20** 1 question due

Unit XII - Virtues and Ethics for Health Professionals

**April 22** 1 question due


Unit XIII - Medical Care for a More Human Society

Barber, B. R. (1992). Participatory democracy in health care: The role of the responsible


**April 27**  
1 question due

**May 6, 1994, Friday, 10:00-11:40**  
Final Exam, Units II and VI to XIII.

Other reserved articles: