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Phone:     6298                                                   6391

Course Description:

Technological advances in the life sciences and health care have increased the ability to conceive, sustain, and alter human lives. The human response to health care technology is explored from individual, family, and societal perspectives. Ethical theories and principles are applied as a guide to decision-making about the use of health care technology. Problems of the current health care system are discussed and health policy options for controlling or monitoring technologies are considered. Health care technologies discussed in the course include genetic testing and counseling, intensive treatment of newborns, contraceptive technologies, reproductive technologies, organ transplantation, heart technologies, and experimental research in the treatment of cancer. Additional topics of concern are AIDS treatment in a technological society, quality of life issues in care of the elderly, and termination of life.

Prerequisites:

1. College writing (GES 110).
2. A course in the biological sciences.
3. A course in Philosophy or Psychology is recommended.

General Education Curriculum Category:

Science, Technology and Society

Course Objectives:

1. Identifies the risks and benefits of health care technologies for families and society.
2. Applies ethical theories and perspectives to decision-making about the use of health care technologies.
3. Describes problems and dilemmas in the current health care system environment.
4. Identifies health policy options and strategies for monitoring and controlling health care technologies.
5. Gains an understanding of the complex ethical, legal, medical, economic and policy issues involved in health care decision-making for all age groups.
Textbooks:
3. Course manual of Readings, Study Guides, Class Activities, and Assignments.
4. Reference Books in LRC:
   b. Bibliography of Bioethics, Ref 174.2B582b

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance/Class Participation: 30 points. Attendance will be taken at each class. Participation refers to being prepared for each class, having completed the assigned readings, and being involved in small group discussion.
2. Quality of Life Essay: 10 points (due 1/6/95).
3. Decision-Making Report: 10 points (due 1/16)
4. Health Care Technology Project: 40 points (due 1/9, 1/12, 1/22).
5. Exams:
   a. Mid-term exam: 30 points (1/11)
   b. Final exam: 30 points (1/24)

Total points of all course requirements: 150

Grading:

A = 100-93%  B = 86-83%  C+ = 79-77%
A- = 92-90%  B- = 82-80%  C- = 72-70%
B+ = 89-87%  C = 76-73%  D = 69-60%

The Bethel policy of academic dishonesty applies in this course.
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<td>1/2</td>
<td>I. Introduction</td>
<td>Define ethical theories and perspectives that can be used as guidelines in decision-making</td>
<td>Orr, Ch. 1</td>
<td>Video: What’s Ailing Medicine?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A. Ethical Decision Making</td>
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<td>Case studies: Life and death health care: Decisions and dilemmas</td>
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<td>1/3</td>
<td>B. Family systems</td>
<td>1. Describe family responses to health care technology based on family systems theory.</td>
<td>Priester, R. “A values framework for health system reform”, review.</td>
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<td>C. The Health Care System</td>
<td>2. Discuss problems in the current health care system.</td>
<td>Life choices</td>
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<td>3. Use a values framework to analyze a health care dilemma.</td>
<td>1. pp. 24-35 “The Role of Emotion in Ethical Decision-Making</td>
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<td>4. Apply Warwick and Kelman’s framework to a health policy problem.</td>
<td>2. pp. 53-67 “What about the Family?”</td>
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<td>A. Genetic screening</td>
<td>2. Discuss ethical dilemmas inherent in prenatal diagnosis.</td>
<td>1. pp. 499-505 “First Fruits: Genetic Screening”</td>
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<td>2. pp. 506-513 “Genetic Secrets”</td>
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<td>1/5</td>
<td>B. Contraceptive technology</td>
<td>1. Describe recent developments in contraceptive technologies.</td>
<td>Planned Parenthood fact sheets.</td>
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<td>2. Discuss ethical dilemmas involved in the use of Norplant and RU-486.</td>
<td>Orr, Ch. 3</td>
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<td>Contraceptive technology focus groups.</td>
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<td>Quality of life essay due.</td>
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<td>Lecture Content</td>
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| 1/8   | C. Reproductive technology | 1. Identify gender issues affecting use of health care technology.  
2. Describe new developments in reproductive technologies.  
Guest speaker.  
Annotated Bibliography Due |
| 1/9   | D. Intensive treatment of new-borns | 1. Discuss the benefits and problems resulting from intensive treatment of newborns for families and society.  
2. Discuss personhood and treatment of newborns from a theological perspective. | Orr, Ch. 4 Life Choices pp. 222-229 “Deciding Not to Employ Aggressive Measures”  
Solomon, S.D. “Suffer the Little Children”  
Articles on Lakeburg Twins. | Parent Panel.  
Role Play: Infant care case consultation. |
| 1/10  | E. Organ transplantation | 1. Describe the response of the immune system in organ transplantation and rejection.  
2. Discuss access to and availability of organs as ethical dilemmas in organ transplantation. | Center for biomedical ethics.  
“Overview” of organ transplantation.” (1-9).  
<p>| 1/11  | Mid term exam | | | Exam - 30 points |
| 1/12  | Work/Consultation Day | | | Project description/action plan due. |</p>
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| 1/16 | Heart Technologies | 1. Focus on heart disease and heart surgery.  
2. Examine the changing role of coronary bypass surgery.  
3. Examine new technologies, i.e. laser surgery, etc. | Mayo: Congestive Heart Failure | Speaker Panel: Cardiologist and Heart Patient  
Video: 1) Mechanical Heartbeat  
| 1/17 | F. Cancer and experimental research | 1. Discuss ethical issues involved in experimental research.  
2. Describe the process of cancer cell invasion and metastasis. | Marquis, D. “An ethical problem concerning recent therapeutic research on breast cancer.”  
Tribune: Gene Therapy, Insurance  
Liotta, L. “Cancer cell invasion and metastasis.  
(Note: These two articles are on reserve.) | Video: “Conquering Cancer”. |
| 1/18 | G. AIDS in a technological society | 1. Identify ethical issues involved in developing and using technology to prevent and treat AIDS | Orr, Ch. 6  
Essex, M. “Confronting the AIDS Vaccine Challenge.” | Video: AIDS Research: The Story So Far  
Guest Speaker |
| 1/19 | H. Care of the Elderly and Quality of Life | 1. Discuss implications of using age as a factor for rationing health care.  
2. Explore the meaning of quality of life in health care of the elderly. | Orr, Ch. 7  
Life Choices pp. 149-160  
“Terminating Treatment” | Video: Life Support.  
Case studies |
| 1/22 | I. Termination of life | 1. Distinguish between active and passive euthanasia.  
2. Identify ethical and legal issues involved in withdrawing food and fluids in severely brain damaged patients. | Orr, Chs. 5,8 &9  
Life Choices pp. 201-212  
“Must Patients Always Be Given Food and Water?”  
Cameron, N. “Living Wills and the Will to Live” | Video: “The Death of Nancy Cruzan”.  
Worksheet - Life and death health care decision-making preferences | Health care technology paper due. |
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<td>1/23</td>
<td>III. Health care policy</td>
<td>Presentations 1. Discuss health care policy options for the U.S. health care system. 2. Discuss issue of fair access for health care and health care technology.</td>
<td>Verhey, “The Good Samaritan and Scarce Medical Resources.” Orr, Ch. 11</td>
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<td>1/24</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam - 30 points</td>
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