The ethical problems of the care of the terminally ill have been among the most controversial issues in medical ethics over the past decade. This course will explore those issues combining lecture, discussion, and film. The course will not emphasize the sociological and psychological aspects of death and dying, concentrating instead on philosophical, ethical, and public policy issues.

There will be a mid-term March 3 during the first hour of class and a final exam. The final exam will be a take-home final distributed the last day of class and due on the scheduled examination date.

The primary texts for the course will be a series of articles plus two books:


The articles will be available in several forms. You should choose the form that is most appropriate for you. Many of them appear in the second edition of *Ethical Issues in Death and Dying* [EIDD-II]. They are also available in the library from their original sources, but many of these readings have been edited in EIDD-II to reduce their length. The edited version will always be sufficient for the course. The articles contained in this volume will be marked with EIDD-II in brackets. All articles not contained in EIDD-II will be on reserve in the library. Many will be in the anthologies listed below. They are identified by the anthology editors' names in brackets. Those not contained in anthologies are marked with an (*).
Anthologies Containing Required or Additional Readings for This Course


For reference you may want to consult:


Phil. 548-01 The Ethics of Terminal Care

Jan 19  Introduction: Film "Who Shall Survive?"

Jan 26  Definition of Death

Feb 2   What to Tell the Dying Patient and Informed Consent

Feb 9   Suicide and Physician-Assistance

Feb 16  Videotape: "Please Let Me Die"

The Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients:
1. Active killing and letting die/Direct/indirect

Feb 23  2. Ordinary and Extraordinary Means

Mar 2   3. Withholding Food, Fluids, and Medications

Mar 16  MID-TERM EXAM

Formerly Competent Patients: Living Wills/Powers of
Attorney/Natural Death Acts

Mar 23  The Role of Surrogates (Quinlan, Saikewicz, Dinnerstein, Becker, Cruzan)

Mar 30  The Role of Surrogates (continued)

Apr 6   Hospital Ethics Committees

Apr 13  Neonates and the Baby Doe Rule

Apr 20  The Futile Care Debate trdiac

Apr 27  The Social Ethics of Terminal Care

May 4   The Social Ethics of Terminal Care/Course Review
Reading List

January 19-26: Definition of Death

Reading


In re T.A.C.P (Baby Theresa) 609 So. 2d 588 (Fla. 1992).[EIDD-II, 47-51]


Additional Reading


February 2: What to Tell the Dying Patient and Informed Consent

Reading


Ross, W.D. *The Right and the Good.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1939, chapter 2. [Beauchamp; Reiser; Veatch, 1989][EIDD-II, p. 87]

Additional Reading


February 9: Suicide and Physician Assistance

Reading


Aquinas, Thomas. “Whether It Is Lawful to Kill Oneself.” *Summa Theologica*, II-II, Q. 64, Art. 5 [Beauchamp and Perlin] [EIDD-II, pp. 119-21]


Additional Reading


Compassion in Dying v. Washington No. 94-35534 D.C. No. CV-94-119-BJR, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.


February 16: Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients

CHECK IN CLASS FOR POSSIBLE CHANGE IN DATE

1. Active Killing and Letting Die
2. Direct/Indirect Killing
3. Withholding and Withdrawing

Videotape: "Please Let Me Die"

Reading


**Additional Reading**


**February 23: The Ethics of Decisions for Competent Patients**

4. Benefits and Burdens (Ordinary and Extraordinary Means)

*Reading*


*Additional Reading*


March 2: Withholding Food, Fluids, CPR, and Medications

Reading

Lynn, Joanne, and James F. Childress. "Must Patients Always be Given Food and Water?" The Hastings Center Report 13 (October 1983): 17-21.[Weir, second edition]

Additional Reading

Cruzan, by Cruzan v. Harmon 76 S. W.2d 408 (Mo. banc 1988).

**March 16: Formerly Competent Patients: Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Natural Death Acts**

**Reading**

*Concern for Dying. "A Living Will." No date. [Beauchamp and Walters, 1982]*
*In re Quinlan. 70 N.J. 10,355 A. 2d 647 (1976) [Beauchamp and Perlin; Shannon; Arras and Rhoden; Jonsen, Veatch, and Walters].*

Additional Reading


March 23-30: The Role of Surrogates

Reading

Superintendent of Belchertown State School v. Saikewicz. 370 NE d 417, 1977. [Beauchamp and Walters, 1982; Shannon; Arras and Rhoden] [EIDD-II, pp. 331-37; Jonsen, Veatch, and Walters]
*Cruzan, by Cruzan v. Harmon 760 S. W.2d 408 (Mo. banc 1988).
*Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Dept. of Health, 110 S.Ct. 2841 (1990) [EIDD-II, pp. 286-94; Jonsen, Veatch, and Walters] [REVIEW].

Additional Reading

In re Phillip B. California Court of Appeal, First District, 1979. 92 Cal. App. 3d 796, 156 Cal. Rptr. 48.

April 6: Hospital Ethics Committees

Reading

Veatch, Robert M. "The Ethics of Institutional Ethics Committees." In Institutional Ethics Committees and Health Care Decision Making, pp. 35-50. Edited by Ronald E. Cranford, M.D., and A. Edward Doudera, J.D. Ann Arbor, MI: American Society of
Law & Medicine, 1984. [Beauchamp and Walters, 1989]

Additional Reading

New Jersey Guidelines for Prognosis Committees. "Guidelines for Health Care Facilities to Implement Procedures Concerning the Care of Comatose Non-Cognitive Patients." No date.

April 13 Neonates and the Baby Doe Rule

Reading


*Additional Reading*

April 20: The Futile Care Debate

Reading


In the Matter of Baby K, 1993 WL 343557 (E.D. Va.),[EIDD-II, p. 376-84; Jonsen, Veatch, and Walters]

In Re The Conservatorship of Helga Wanglie, State of Minnesota, District Court, Probate Court Division, County of Hennepin, Fourth Judicial District, June 28, 1991.[EIDD-II, pp. 362-67]


Additional Reading


Lantos, John D., Peter A. Singer, Robert M. Walker, Gregory P. Gramelspacher, Gary R.


**April 27-May 4: The Social Ethics of Terminal Care: Resource Allocation**

*Reading*


Veatch, Robert M. "How Age Should Matter: Justice as the Basis for Limiting Care to the Elderly." In *Facing Limits: Ethics and Health Care for the Elderly*. Edited by Gerald R. Winslow and James W. Walters. Boulder, Colorado: We-tview Press, 1993, pp. 211-

**Additional Reading**


Jecker, Nancy S. "Disenfranchising the Elderly from Life-Extending Medical Care." *Public
Affairs Quarterly 2 (July, 1988):51-68.
