

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION: ISSUES IN BIOMEDICAL ETHICS**

This two-semester summer course examines issues of applied ethics [moral standards] as they relate to the dilemmas faced by patients, professionals and workers in the healthcare and scientific fields. The study of ethics and morality is appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as standards of care are examined that relate to medical and scientific breakthroughs. In Summer A the course examines basic ethical issues and those recent complications that polarize beliefs. These serve as the foundation for debates and standards in science and medicine. The modules focus on the historical timeline regarding theories of moral philosophy that led the evolution into biomedical ethics from the earliest known moral code (Hammurabi, 1800 BCE), the Asclepians, the Hippocratic Oath to dilemmas we face today on matters of life and death. Case studies are employed to demonstrate the laws that govern the US and global healthcare systems and medical practices. Medical directives are addressed. Summer B explores three current issues in medicine that are highly polarizing: communicable diseases, matter of life and matters regarding death and dying. The discussion/debates in Summer B are conducted through an active team discussion and blog for the pro/con arguments. The debate teams have been set through the class roster and will be published at the beginning of Summer B.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS and ASSESSMENTS**

4 quizzes (weeks 2-3-4-6), 10 questions @ 10 points multiple choice, true/false, matching [20%]

1 midterm exam in week 5, 50 multiple choice, true/false and matching questions @ 2 points [25%]; 4 weekly discussions among classmates with an initial comment from each student followed by responses to at least 3 others' posts @ 10 points [15%]

4 essay/projects on topics *apropos* to the bioethical and global awareness topics [20%]

Final project #5 Part A 10%; Part B 10%- [20%]

## **MODULE 1 Introduction to the Course, Introduction to Ethics and Bioethics Weeks 1-2**

**Week 1 May 8-14** Introduction to the course

### **Reading and Viewing Assignments**

- PPT Historical overview: the history of biomedical (bioethics) through the timeline and theories regarding development, Applied Ethics, Code of Hammurabi, Asclepius-Greek god of healing; Greek ideas, Hippocratic Oath Religious v. secular thinking in medical decision making
- HIPPA, Advanced Directives (electronic postings)
- Review "Paradigm Shift" from Philip Incoa (electronic posting)
- Fremgen "Preface, xv-xvii, Ch 1, pp1-28, Appendix "A" pp 373-376
- Glossary of key bioethical terms

- Electronic postings: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/06/08/4163687/doctors-dilemmaphysicians-weigh.html#>

### Written Assignments

- [Post student biography](#)
- [Sign agreement form indicating you've read the course information, course content and syllabus](#)

### Week 2 May15- May 21

#### Reading assignments

- Rachels, "Preface," Ch 1-2, 4 pp 1-34, pp 52-67
- Critical Thinking and Ethical Theories (electronic reading)

### Written Assignments

- Discussion #1 "What do you consider the major reason to study ethics and bioethics?" Initial post in the Discussion Board #1 by Thursday May 18; responses to 3 others is due Sunday, May 21 at 23:59.
- Essay #1 "Why make moral decisions that affects health?" 300-word minimum (GLI)

### Assessments

- Quiz #1 opens May 18 at 08:00; closes May 21 at 23:59, covers all material in Week 1 historical timeline, and key [glossary] terms: multiple choice/true false/matching; (GLI)

## MODULE 2: Medicine and the Legal System, Weeks 3-4

### Week 3 May 22- May 28

#### Reading and Viewing Assignments

- Fremgen, Ch 2, pp 29-54
- Rachels Ch 6-8, pp 89-129
- PDF "Reforming the American Medical System"
- View *The New Medicine*, DVD, minutes
- View: *Remaking American Medicine*
- PDF "Preventing the Global Spread of AIDS"

### Written assignments

- Assignment #2 Design a PPT or Prezi presentation on AIDS using historical data and current statistics due May 28 at 23:59
- Discussion #2 “Why is the legal profession so important in medical decision making?” This is extremely important with the promotion of a new Affordable Care Act by the Trump administration. Post your initial response by Thursday, May 25 at 23:59; respond to at least 3 others initial posts by Sunday, May 28 at 23:59

### **Assessments**

- Quiz #2 opens May 25 at 08:00, closes May 28 at 23:59, covers all material from Week 2

### **Week 4 May 29- June 4 (Memorial Day May 29, University closed)**

#### **Reading Assignments**

- Fremgen Ch 5-6 (pp 99-162) Ch 10 241-265; Discuss legal issues for physicians and healthcare workers: Liability, Malpractice, “Legislating Morality,” Public Health, Federal Regulations in Medicine, Anti-Trust Laws, Medical Records
- Rachels Ch 9, pp 130-140; Ch 11 160-172
- Advanced Directives (electronic post)
- Review **HIPAA**, Electronic reading and PPT: Legal concepts in legislation and Advanced Directives, Professional Oaths
- Study guide for the midterm exam will be sent via course message

#### **Written assignments**

- Assignment Essay #3 Do our laws (in the US) legislate morality? 300 words, due June 4 at 23:59
- Discussion #3 “Is there an instance or time when HIPAA should be ignored?” Post your initial response by Thursday, June 1 at 23:59; respond to at least 3 others initial posts by Sunday June 4 at 23:59

### **Assessments**

- Quiz #3 opens June 9 at 08:00, closes June 12 at 23:55, covers all material from Week 3-4

### **MODULE 3 Weeks 5-6, AIDS, Communicable Diseases**

#### **Week 5 June 5-11**

#### **Reading and Viewing Assignments**

- DVD from the “Jay Wolfson Honors Excellence Lecture” for Summer B debate on the ethical situations from the Terri Schiavo case; DVD *The Age of Aids*. This DVD
- Notes and PPT from Susan Sontag’s *Illness as a Metaphor and Aids and its Metaphors*
- Fremgen Ch 7-9, pp 163-240

### Written assignment

- **Final Assignment #5 Part A**, title, abstract (200-word description of your topic) and bibliography for your final PPT/Prezi project; select one of the following topics: 1) a vaccination regarding a communicable disease that is curable; 2) the spread of TB; 3) the spread of AIDS. Offer statistics and propose a solution for reducing the disease or eliminating it on a local, national and global scale, (unlimited budget, ie no financial boundaries). Post your topic in an abstract with references (bibliography) **due June 11 at 12:00**

### Assessment

- Midterm exam covers all material from weeks 1-4; 50 multiple choice, true/false and matching items; opens June 7 at 08:00, closes June 11 at 23:59

### Week 6 June 12- 16

#### Viewing Assignment

- DVD- *The Great Debaters*- view DVD prior to discussion/debates in summer B

### Assessment

- Quiz #4 opens June 13 at 08:00, closes June 16 at 23:55, covers all material from Week 4-5

### Written assignment

- **Final Assignment #5 Part B** PPT or Prezi presentation. No need to list the bibliography as it is posted in Part A; **Part B due June 16 at 23:59**