

PHIL-2050: BIOETHICS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: PHIL-2050 : Bioethics

Board of Trustees:

May 2025

Academic Term:

Fall 2025

Subject Code

PHIL - Philosophy

Course Number:

2050

Title:

Bioethics

Catalog Description:

Introduction to study and analysis of moral philosophy as applied to issues in healthcare with emphasis on developing students' abilities to correctly identify moral problems and defend their moral judgments.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Lab Hour(s):

0

Other Hour(s):

0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

ENG-1010 College Composition I or ENG-101H Honors College Composition I.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Solve ethical dilemmas in bioethical issues by applying various ethical theories.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Distinguish between bioethical issues from other related issues in the healthcare field.
 2. Demonstrate the ability to interpret, critically evaluate, and compare current ethical theories.
 3. Compare/contrast differing resolutions to dilemmas based on ethical theory applications.
 4. Assess the effectiveness of various ethical theories as they are applied to bioethical issues.
 5. Develop original resolutions to bioethical issues based on logically rigorous and rationally constructed argument structures.
 6. Anticipate and address potential criticisms.
 7. Distinguish moral and legal issues as they relate to bioethical issues.
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Course Outcome(s):

Interpret and analyze ethical theories used in the healthcare sector.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Explain the care oriented model of bioethics.
2. Contrast deontological and utilitarian theories and explain how each theory may be applied in a healthcare setting.
3. Explain Aristotle's Virtue Ethics and its importance in the healthcare sector.

Course Outcome(s):

Identify and explain current bioethical issues.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Identify current topics in the field of bioethics and their ethical implications.
2. Identify the major issues associated with the beginning and end of life.
3. List the current topics in the field of biotechnology.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Research papers
2. Case study analyses
3. Essay exams
4. Objective exams
5. Quizzes
6. Written assignments
7. Class participation

Course Content Outline:

1. Overview and scope of Bioethical Issues
2. Introduction to ethical theory
 - a. Description versus prescription
 - b. Normative ethical theories
 - i. Teleology versus deontology
 - ii. Act/rule utilitarianism
 - iii. Kantian deontology
 1. W.D. Ross Prima Facie duties
 - iv. Metaethics
- c. Principlism
 - i. Respect for autonomy
 - ii. Beneficence
 - iii. Nonmaleficence
 - iv. Justice
- d. Virtue ethics
- e. Casuistry
- f. Feminist ethics
 - i. Care
- g. Reflective equilibrium
 - i. Considered judgments
- h. Cultural/ethical relativism

3. A model of applied ethical decision making
 - a. Steps in making a defensible and definitive moral judgment:
 - i. Identification of case details
 - b. Identifying the morally relevant facts
 - i. Identification of analogous cases
 - ii. Determination of applicable moral concepts
 - iii. Accumulation of moral arguments
 - iv. Justification for resolutions
 1. Developing a defensible and definitive moral argument
 - v. Anticipate criticism
 - c. Resolve conflicting judgments
4. Major moral concepts of bioethics
 - a. Autonomy
 - b. Paternalism
 - i. Weak/strong
 - c. Ethics and its relation to law
 - i. Major court cases
 - i. Futility treatment decisions
 - ii. Practitioner/patient relationship
 - iii. Experimentation
 1. Informed consent
 2. Information for patients
 3. Right to consent
 4. Terminally ill
 - d. Issues at the beginning of life
 - i. Right of and responsibility of reproduction
 - ii. Reproductive technologies
 - iii. Abortion
 - iv. Birth defects
 - e. Conflicting loyalties
 - i. Institution
 - ii. Patient
 - iii. Physician
 - iv. Family
 - f. Issues at the end of life
 - i. Euthanasia
 - ii. Physician assisted suicide
 - iii. Palliative care
 - iv. Palliative sedation therapy
 - v. Hospice care
 - vi. Living wills/durable power of attorney
 - vii. Definitions of death
 1. Cardiopulmonary/whole brain/higher brain
 - viii. Forgoing life support
 1. Withdrawing and withholding treatment
 2. Do-not-resuscitate orders (DNR)
 - ix. Quality of life
 - x. Refusal of treatment
 - xi. Care for the terminally ill
 1. Withdrawing artificial nutrition and hydration (ANH)
 2. Futile care - Rationing healthcare
 - xii. Patient Self Determination Act (PSDA) patient values history
 - g. Just allocation of health resources
 - i. Health care as a right
 - ii. Models of distributive justice
 - iii. Rationing
 - iv. Practitioner/patient relationship
 1. Basic models patient-centered encounters and communication
 2. Informed consent

- a. Basic elements
 - b. Barriers
- 3. Confidentiality and privileged communication
- 4. Truth-telling and deceit
- 5. Patient compliance
- 6. Infectious diseases and the professional
 - a. Duty to treat infected patients
 - b. Duties and rights of the infected professional
- 7. Documentation in the patient medical record
- v. Professional moral conflicts
 - 1. Responsibilities to self and personal integrity
 - 2. Medical conscience - performing medical procedures that violate the religious or moral beliefs of the healthcare worker/facility
 - 3. Peer relationships: team support and challenges
 - 4. Employer demands and conflicts of interest: whistle blowing
 - 5. The professional and a good citizen
- 5. Current Topics in Bioethics
 - a. Biotechnology
 - i. Human cloning
 - ii. Three parent embryos
 - iii. Gene editing - Clustered Regularly-Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR)
 - b. Controlled Substances Act

Resources

Beauchamp, T., and J. Childress. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. 8th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Purtilo, R. *Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions*. 6th ed. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2015.

Veatch, R., Haddad, A., English, D. *Case Studies in Biomedical Ethics*. 2nd ed. Oxford University Press, 2014.

Pence, Gregory, E. *Medical Ethics: Accounts of Ground-Breaking Cases*. 9th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2020.

Daniels, Norman; Light, Donald, W.; Caplan, Ronald, L. *Benchmarks of Fairness for Healthcare Reform*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Vaughn, Lewis. *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*. 4th . New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Mappes, Thomas, A., DeGrazia, David, Brand-Ballard, Jeffry. *Biomedical Ethics*. 7th. New York: McGraw Hill, 2010.

Levine, Carol. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Bioethical Issues*. 14th. New York: McGraw Hill, 2012.

Tong, Rosemarie. *New Perspectives in Healthcare Ethics*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2007.

Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine. *Steinbock, Bonnie; Arraas, John, D.; London, Alex, John*. 8th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2012.

Mepham, Ben. *Bioethics: An Introduction for the Biosciences*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Beauchamp, Tom, L.; Walters, Leroy; Kahn, Jeffrey, P.; Mastroianni, Anna, C. *Contemporary Issues in Bioethics*. 8th ed. Belmont: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2013.

Rawls, John; Kelly, Erin. *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.

Munson, Ronald and Lague. *Basic Issues In Bioethics*. 10th ed. Wadsworth Publishing, 2017.

"Advance for Respiratory Therapists"

"American Journal of Hospital Pharmacists"

"American Journal of Nursing"

"American Journal of Occupational Therapy"

"Annals of Internal Medicine"

"Geriatric Nursing"

"Gerontological Nursing"

"Hastings Center Report**"

"Heart and Lung"

"HEC Forum"

"Hospital Practice"

"Journal of Allied Health"

"Journal of American Medical Association"

"Journal of Clinical Ethics"

"Journal of Family Practice"

"Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants"

"Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal"

"Medical Education"

"New England Journal of Medicine"

"Nursing Forum"

"Nursing Outlook"

"Physician Assistant"

"Respiratory Management"

"RN"

"RT Image"

"American Journal of Bioethics"

"Journal of Philosophy and Medicine"

"International Journal of Bioethics"

"Nursing Ethics"

Resources Other

1. American Hospital Association: <http://www.aha.org/>
 - a. American Hospital Association. "Patients" Bill of Rights": http://www.patienttalk.info/AHA-Patient_Bill_of_Rights.htm
 - b. American Hospital Association: Patient Care Partnership: <http://www.aha.org/aha/issues/Communicating-With-Patients/pt-care-partnership.html>
2. American Medical Association: <http://www.ama-assn.org/>
 - a. American Medical Association. "Principles of Medical Ethics." <http://www.cirp.org/library/statements/ama/>
3. American Nurses Association: <http://www.nursingworld.org/>
4. The American Registry of Radiologic Technologist. "Code of Ethics." <https://www.arrt.org/ethics/standardethic.pdf>
5. National Institutes of Health: <http://www.nih.gov/>
6. US National Library of Medicine: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>
7. PubMed.gov: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>
8. Hippocratic Oath: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/doctors/oath_classical.html
9. Institutional Ethics Committees, American Academy of Pediatrics; <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;107/1/205> (<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;107/1/205/>)
10. World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/en/>
11. Bioethics.net <http://bioethics.net/>
12. Bioethics Resources on the web: <http://bioethics.od.nih.gov/>
13. BENO, The Bioethics Network of Ohio: <http://www.beno-ethics.org/>
14. thehastingscenter.org (<https://webmail.tri-c.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=zNYMQkKBc6Lxl1WWXgiOTDpMQlWC1csEf9g265DkYiXhwOTVigPVCA..&URL=http%3a%2f%2fthehastingscenter.org>)
 - a. <http://www.thehastingscenter.org/briefingbook/briefing-book/>
15. iep.utm.edu (<http://iep.utm.edu>)
16. National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization: <https://www.nhpco.org/>

Instructional Services

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