



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Subject:	PHIL
Course Number:	374
Descriptive Title:	Medical Ethics
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Philosophy
Course Disciplines:	Philosophy
Catalog Description:	<p>This course explores the application of ethical theories and moral reasoning to the major ethical issues confronting the fields of medicine and biomedical science. Students will become familiar with legal and institutional positions, evaluate opposing arguments on the various topics, and examine relevant case studies. Topics include: the Hippocratic tradition; the virtues of healthcare professionals; paternalism vs. patient autonomy; informed patient consent and confidentiality; genetic and reproductive ethics; abortion; infanticide; hospice, death and dying, and advance directives; quality and sanctity of life; and just allocation of resources.</p> <p>Note: This upper division course is a required course for students in the Respiratory Care B.S. program.</p>
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	Enrollment limited to students who are accepted into the Respiratory Care Baccalaureate Degree program.
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 2023
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education ECC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	

Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Students will be able to identify the primary moral theories, including Kantian duty ethics, Utilitarianism, and Virtue Ethics, distinguish the primary difference between the theories, and evaluate the strengths and weakness of each theory.</p> <p>SLO #2 Students will be able to apply moral theories, including those of Utilitarianism, Kantian duty ethics, and Virtue Ethics to contemporary issues in medical ethics.</p> <p>SLO #3 Students will be able to critically evaluate facts and arguments of both sides of contemporary issues in medical ethics (e.g., abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, paternalism vs. patient autonomy, informed consent, advanced directives, genetic testing, patient rights, cloning, the ethics of rationing, etc.).</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate an ability to identify and evaluate instances of moral reasoning. 2. Demonstrate an ability to identify, explain, and evaluate different leading ethical theories such as utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, and virtue ethics and apply them to ethical decision-making in medical contexts. 3. Demonstrate an ability to identify and explain core principles of moral reasoning that are regularly applied in medical contexts, such as Autonomy, Beneficence, Utility, and Justice. 4. Demonstrate an ability to identify and explain common issues in medical ethics, such as: the Hippocratic tradition; paternalism, autonomy, and informed consent; truth-telling, and confidentiality; advance directives; genetic testing, cloning, genetic therapy, and stem cell research; reproductive technology; abortion; euthanasia; scientific research involving human subjects; and just allocation of resources. 5. Demonstrate an ability to write well-justified, well-organized papers that a) reconstruct arguments contained in a text, b) critically evaluate the plausibility of the premises and inferences, and c) offer their own arguments in response to questionable arguments in the target text.
Major Topics:	<p>I. Moral Reasoning (4 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. The Nature of Arguments B. Argument Evaluation: Good and Bad Arguments C. Identifying Moral Arguments D. Composing Moral Arguments E. Evaluating Moral Arguments F. Fallacies in Moral Reasoning</p> <p>G. Moral Principles in Medical Ethics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Autonomy 2. Nonmaleficence 3. Beneficence

- 4. Utility
- 5. Justice

II. Introduction to Major Ethical Theories (8 hours, lecture)

- A. Utilitarianism
- B. Kantian Ethics
- C. Virtue Ethics
- D. Care Ethics

III. Paternalism and Patient Autonomy (4 hours, lecture)

- A. The Hippocratic Oath
- B. Paternalism Versus. Patient Autonomy
- C. Advance Directives
- D. Refusal of Treatment of Children and Religious Grounds
- E. CPR and DNR
- F. Moral Conflicts in Nursing

IV. Truth-Telling and Confidentiality (4 hours, lecture)

- A. Paternalism and Deception
- B. Confidential Truths

V. Informed Consent (4 hours, lecture)

- A. Autonomy and Consent
- B. Conditions of Informed Consent

VI. Human Research (4 hours, lecture)

- A. The Science of Clinical Trials
- B. Science and Placebos
- C. Science and Informed Consent
- D. The Ethics of Research on the Vulnerable

VII. Abortion (6 hours, lecture)

- A. Introducing the Moral and Legal Issues
- B. Abortion and Public Opinion
- C. Pro-Life Arguments
- D. Pro-Choice Arguments
- E. Persons and Rights

VIII. Reproductive Technology (4 hours, lecture)

- A. In Vitro Fertilization
- B. Surrogacy
- C. Cloning

IX. Genetic Choices (4 hours, lecture)

	<p>A. Genetic Testing B. Gene Therapy C. Stem Cell Research</p> <p>X. Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide (8 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Deciding Life and Death B. Active Versus Passive Euthanasia C. Voluntary Versus Involuntary Euthanasia D. Pro-Euthanasia Arguments E. Anti-Euthanasia Arguments</p> <p>XI. Dividing Up Health Care Resources (4 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. The Problem of Unequal Health Care for Underrepresented Groups B. The Ethics of Rationing</p>
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	In a four- to five-page essay, compare and contrast the positions and arguments surrounding the abortion issue. Which view do you find more persuasive and why?
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a three- to five-page argumentative essay that expounds and evaluates the core arguments on a given medical ethical issue, such as abortion or euthanasia.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	In a one- to two-page essay, provide a concise exposition and critique of Judith Thomson's violinist argument for the permissibility of abortion.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Embedded Questions, Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Journal kept throughout course, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Presentation, Quizzes, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
If Other:	
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Journal (done on a continuing basis throughout the semester), Problem solving activity, Required reading, Skill practice, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:	<p>Lewis Vaughn, <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>, 5th Edition, Oxford University Press, 2022.</p> <p>Tom Beauchamp and James Childress, <i>Principles of Biomedical Ethics</i>, 8th Edition, Oxford University Press, 2022.</p>
Alternative Textbooks:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	

Other Required Materials:	
Requisite Category	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
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Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s) if applicable	
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Enrollment Limitations and Category:	Enrollment limited to students who are accepted into the Respiratory Care Baccalaureate Degree program.
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Felipe Leon
Date:	11/10/2022
Original Board Approval Date:	01/17/2023