

ETHICS AND THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Fall 2017

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY: PHI 593; REL 551
UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY: MED CCFM 1402; CON CCFM 402; GRAD 6402
LE MOYNE COLLEGE: CCM 408/508; PHL 347

Weds 4:30—7:30pm, Setnor Academic Building 3507, Upstate Campus

Professor: **Paul Prescott, PhD**
Email: papresco@syr.edu
Office: HL 528, Syracuse Campus
Office Hours: W 2:00—4:00pm

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Tom L. Beauchamp & James F. Childress. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 7th edition. Oxford, 2013. ISBN: 0199924589
- T. R. Reid, *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*, revised edition. Penguin, 2010. ISBN: 0143118218

The required texts are available at the Upstate Medical University Bookstore and the Syracuse University Bookstore. All other reading will be available for download on Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ethics and the Health Professions is a graduate-level seminar on the ethical dimensions of healthcare. The goal of the course is to provide students with opportunities to discern philosophical fundamentals in various healthcare contexts. Topics range from the professional-patient relationship to the political economy of healthcare on a global scale.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance: The class meets only once per week. Hence, students are expected to be in attendance for *every class session*.

Participation: The course is a seminar, in which classes will be primarily discussion-based. Hence, *regular reading, preparation, and participation are required and expected*.

Writing Assignments: Writing assignments will consist of weekly reflection papers and a formal essay. Due dates for all writing assignments are indicated on the course calendar. Late assignments will not be accepted. Each student may miss one weekly reflection assignment over the course of the semester.

- Reflection Papers –The reflection papers will be two-page, double-spaced writing assignments based on an assigned topic. The assigned tasks will vary.
- Final Paper –The final paper will be a formal essay of ten to fifteen pages on a topic of the student’s choosing. Prior to final submission, other students in the class will comment upon an initial draft. Additional guidelines will be provided as the course progresses. Final papers are due in hardcopy on the last day of class.

GRADING

Students will be graded on the basis of:

- (1) the quality of participation in the seminar discussions (attendance included);
- (2) the quality and timely completion of reflection assignments;
- (3) the quality of the formal essay.

RESOURCES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

- K. W. M. Fulford, Donna Dickenson, & Thomas Murray (eds.). *Healthcare Ethics and Human Values*. Blackwell, 2002.
- Helga Kuhse & Peter Singer (eds.). *A Companion to Bioethics*, 2nd edition. Wiley Blackwell, 2013.
- Linda Farber Post & Jeffrey Blustein (eds.). *Handbook for Health Care Ethics Committees*, 2nd edition. John Hopkins, 2015.
- Peter A. Singer & A. M. Viens (eds.). *Cambridge Textbook of Bioethics*. Cambridge, 2008.
- Edward N. Zalta (ed.). *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <http://plato.stanford.edu>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug 30: Course Introduction

Reading: Syllabus

Sept 6: The Nature of Morality

Reading: Beauchamp & Childress: 1. Moral Norms
 Beauchamp & Childress: 2. Moral Character

Writing: PERSONAL REFLECTION

Sept 13: Principle 1: *Respect for Autonomy*

Reading: Beauchamp & Childress: 4. Respect for Autonomy

Writing: CASE A

Sept 20: Principle 2: *Nonmaleficence*

Reading: Beauchamp & Childress: 5. Nonmaleficence

Writing: CASE B

Sept 27: Principle 3: *Beneficence*

Reading: Beauchamp & Childress: 6. Beneficence

Writing: CASE C

Oct 4: *The Professional-Patient Relationship*

Reading: Beauchamp & Childress: 8. Professional-Patient Relationships

Gillion, "Telling the Truth, Confidentiality, Consent, and Respect for Autonomy"

Writing: CASE D

Oct 11: Moral Disagreement: *The Abortion Debate*

Reading: Finis: "Abortion and Health Care Ethics"

Tooley: "Abortion and Infanticide"

Writing: CASE E

Oct 18: *Interpersonal Ethics for Healthcare Professionals*

Reading: Radden, "Boundary Violation Ethics: Some Conceptual Clarifications"

Reamer, "Boundary Issues in Social Work: Managing Dual Relationships"

Writing: CASE F

Oct 25: *Organizational Ethics for Healthcare Professionals*

Reading: Mappes, "Ethical Dilemmas for Nurses: Doctor's Orders v. Patient Rights"

Chambliss, "How the Organization Creates Ethical Problems"

Writing: FIRST WEEK ON DRAFT

Nov 1: **Principle 4: Justice**

Reading: Beauchamp & Childress: 7. Justice

Writing: SECOND WEEK ON DRAFT

Nov 8: **The American Health Care System**

Reading: Reid: Prologue, 1-3.

Writing: COMPLETE DRAFTS DUE; DRAFT EXCHANGE

Nov 15: **International Health Care Systems**

Reading: Reid: 4-11.

Writing: RETURN DRAFT WITH COMMENTS

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 29: **Health Care Reform**

Reading: Reid: 12, 13, Afterword, Appendix.

Writing: REVISE DRAFT

Dec 6: **Course Conclusion**

Writing: FINAL PAPER DUE

