

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

PHIL 1200: Medical Ethics

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

(MnTC Goals 6 and 9)

This class will provide an introduction to classic and contemporary ethical theory and it will then move on to apply ethical analysis in the field of health care and other related fields. Studies will include considerations around patients' rights (to privacy, information and autonomy), paternalism, personhood, the distribution of scarce resources, the right to treatment, and culturally relevant perspectives related to medical treatment. Applied topics may include euthanasia and physician assisted death, abortion, reproductive technologies, and genetic control. Students will evaluate contemporary case studies using ethical theory developed in philosophy as well as the codes of ethics put forth by medical professional organizations.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/22/2011 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to the field of Ethics as a form of philosophical argument
2. Identification of a "moral dilemma" (conflicting duties or virtues)
3. Distinction between questions of individual and social morality; consideration of ethical theories which connect them to one another
4. Distinction between claims that express empirical fact and claims that express ethical principle/value (recognition of how such claims distinctly impact moral reasoning)
5. At least one fourth of the course will be spent specifically studying the following ethical theories:
 - a. Moral Relativism, including its strengths and challenges
 - b. Utilitarianism (both Bentham and Mills), including its strengths and challenges
 - c. Deontology (Kant's respect for persons), including its strengths and challenges
 - d. Virtue Ethics (Aristotle's "mean" and the role of character), including its strengths and challenges
 - e. At least one ethical theory that places high value on emotion as a central tenet to its foundation (e.g., Care Ethics, Emotivism, Expressivism, forms of feminism)
6. Introduction to culturally and religiously relevant considerations around medical treatment (such as perceptions around death and dying, medical intervention, and Directives to Physician)
7. Connection between ethical theory (in number five above) and the "Code of Ethics" for medical professional organizations (such as the American Pharmacists Association or the American Nurses Association)
8. Application of ethical theories (in number five above), in comparison to one another, to at least three issues in health care today (e.g. euthanasia, abortion, human cloning, genetic engineering, etc.). Students will compare ethical theories to one another by applying them to contemporary case studies in health care ethics.
9. Introduction to diverse views regarding the right to treatment and the distribution of scarce resources
10. Introduction to the following concepts employed in medical ethics: patient rights (including confidentiality, consent and directives), autonomy vs. paternalism, diverse criteria pertaining to personhood and death, acts of omission vs. acts of commission, ethical considerations for medical research, and patient advocacy
11. Introduction to contrasting arguments put forth by at least two medical ethicists today who represent different positions on the same moral issue

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Use relevant central terms in the formal study of ethics (e.g. moral agency, character, consequentialism, deontology, impartiality, etc.)
2. Summarize arguments and principles put forth in normative ethics by specific philosophers (per Content area)
3. Critique normative ethical theories, identifying the logical and practical challenges implied by those positions with regard to medical ethics
4. Use relevant central terms in the field of medical ethics and the implicit connections between them to one another (e.g. patient consent, patient directives, right to privacy, autonomy, paternalism, withdrawing and withholding of life support, reproductive freedom, personhood, etc.)
5. Explain ethical considerations around the distribution of health care resources in a pluralistic society
6. Summarize arguments and principles put forth by applied medical ethicists on specific topics (per Content area)
7. Evaluate current case studies in which the student takes a position that is defended in terms of ethical theory and a professional code of ethics within the field

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
3. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted