

PHIL-5100-Ethics and Health Care - SU2009-PHIL-5100-IA

Section Information: SU2009-PHIL-5100-IA

Course Name **PHIL-5100-Ethics and Health Care
(Graduate Level Course)**

Section Instructor: Christine James

E-mail chjames@valdosta.edu

Course Requirements

Philosophy 5100 Ethics and Health Care/Medical Ethics
(Graduate Level, including research paper, literature review, and précis of academic articles required shown in bold.)

Summer III 2009
Online by assignment and discussion on Blazeview

Dr. Christine James
Office: 110 Ashley Hall, Valdosta State University
Telephone: 229-259-7609
Mailbox: Philosophy Department Office, Valdosta State University
Fax: 229-259-5011
E-mail address: chjames@valdosta.edu
Once class begins you should use the email feature within the class WebCT Vista class to contact me.

Purpose and goals of the course: This course will provide a social and political analysis of the medical community, with special emphasis on the principles used in ethical decision making. We will address traditional medical ethics perspectives, and consider how the special role of nursing has challenged the status quo. Students will develop an understanding of medical ethics as it relates to the history of ethical theory, and we will use a variety of case studies from the text and the internet. **Because this is a graduate level course, students will be expected to engage in higher level research involving the use of academic journals, literature reviews, and précis of academic journal articles from major medical ethics and bioethics publications.**

A Special Note: Because the course is on Medical Ethics, you may notice that the textbook has some specific medical terms in it. For example, a "bone marrow transplant" may be mentioned in the book. After mentioning it once, the book may then refer to it as a BMT, and the book may not go into detail on what that means. Please feel free to use the internet to look up new terms. The ethical theory involved is the most important thing, so don't worry if you don't have a lot of medical background. But, when there is a term you don't know, you should feel comfortable looking it up online. Finding out about something new may be the start of a great discussion post you can show the class in the Discussion tool!

Learning Outcomes:

Philosophy courses at Valdosta State University contribute to the VSU

General Education Outcomes listed at the link below, with special emphasis on numbers 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/VSUGeneralEducationOutcomes.shtml>

The Learning Outcomes for our PHIL 5100 are:

1. To **critically analyze and** evaluate the distinctions among the various philosophical approaches to health care and ethics, including the historical nature of health care ethics as an academic field, **and current academic journal publications in health care ethics.**
2. To analyze how philosophical inquiry applies to 'real-world' circumstances and to specific case studies in medical ethics literature, **with special attention to the case study method as it is used in current medical ethics journals**, and to understand the ethical theory models and how to apply each to real world policy issues.
3. To become conversant with understand the historical and structural context of medical ethics, as well as specific examples of the issues of race, class and gender as they influenced health care and as they have been taken up in recent medical ethics publications **(for example, research on women's heart disease, research on medications affecting individuals differently because of race and socio-economic class).**
4. To recognize and define different world views, adopting a reasonably viable one and justifying it in a philosophically informed way that emphasizes critical reasoning and argument, **and which shows a careful review of the extant medical ethics literature.**
5. To demonstrate the ability to analyze, in both oral and written discourse, selected medical ethics issues within an appropriate ethical framework and offer alternative resolutions to the problem **with reference to current medical ethics journals and research methodologies.**
6. To synthesize defensible conclusions of whether health care professionals are applying ethics in the design of policies and programs.
7. To be familiar with what academic philosophy is, and to understand how it can be applied to daily life as well as specific careers.

Members of the faculty in Philosophy and Religious Studies have verified that these outcomes are in line with the outcomes of the course as it is taught at peer institutions in the State System of Georgia.

These course-specific learning outcomes contribute to the departmental learning outcomes of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Major by enabling students better to

1. To encourage an understanding of central issues, topics and philosophers in the history of philosophy, from the ancient to the modern periods.
2. To develop students' abilities to think, write, and speak critically and logically.
3. To enable students to challenge their own ideas and to develop self-understanding in the context of a diverse range of ideas which inform

contemporary controversies and social conflict.

4. To enable students to engage in independent philosophical research, and to be responsible for communicating their understanding of the issues researched and developed, including a working familiarity with current research methods.

5. To incorporate philosophical positions in oral and written communications.

6. To critically outline and analyze a philosophical question.

Our materials are:

Albert R. Jonsen, Mark Siegler (Contributor), William J. Winslade; *Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine*, NY: McGraw Hill Text; Please try to find the newest or at least the 6th edition; ISBN: 0071441999, \$29.95 new (At the VSU bookstore we found it is \$36, perhaps online retailers might have it at the 29.95 price depending on postage.)

Course content: This course provides an introduction to the ethical principles and decision making process relevant to the practice of health care. We will use a method combining specific cases from the medical ethics literature with the history of ethical principles from the philosophical literature.

Requirements: Class participation and contact, two written examinations, and two papers.

How grades will be calculated:

A = 100 - 90%

B = 89 - 80%

C = 79 - 70%

D = 69 - 60%

F = 59 - 0%

Class participation, contact, Discussion = 30%

1 First Exam at 10% = 10%

1 Carefully Structured Literature Review and set of Précis in anticipation of the research paper at 10% = 10%

1 Extensive Research Paper at 30% = 30%

1 Final Exam at 20% = 20%

Total = 100%

*****Please note that I am not obligated to accept late work or to allow work to be turned in after the date given.*****

Please note that the format of this syllabus is different from my other syllabi, this is because the course is an online course and this syllabus is a download from the course in Vista Blazeview. For full course information, register for the course and view the class in Blazeview:

<http://blazeview.valdosta.edu>

Participation Policy: Because this class is an internet-based class, your participation in the class will be evaluated through your contact with each other as using a variety of internet resources, including the WebCT Vista Discussion tool and websites as well as posting related to the class text. You should take part in the internet discussions on a regular basis to receive full credit. In general, you should plan to take part in Discussion every day. Most of the time, you should answer the Discussion topic with an independent first response, and with responses to your fellow students to get a back-and-forth debate going.

Special Needs:

Students requiring classroom accommodations or modification because of a documented disability should discuss this need with me at the beginning of the semester. If you are such a student, but you are not registered with the Access Office, you should contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities in the Farber Building. Their phone number is 245-2498.

Please note that I am not obligated to accept late work or to allow "make up" work after the date an assignment or exam or paper is completed by the other members of the class. This is especially the case in an online class. The class is not totally self-paced. You'll need to send in your work by the end of specific days in the class Calendar tool, and it will be your responsibility to keep on time.

Schedule

Schedule

Weekly Readings and Topics for Discussion:

6/6-6/9 On these dates, make sure you have bought the textbook, and try to log in to the class. Be sure to get the textbook as soon as possible, in a one-month class having the book from the beginning is so important! As soon as you log in, be sure that you have done all of the following: post your first Discussion messages, post your first Mail message to me, and post your first practice Assignment Tool. Also, you should be reading pages 1-12 in the class textbook and posting in the discussion areas on these pages.

6/10 First Official Class Day of Summer III

June 10 is the official first day of the class, and everyone should have logged in to the class by the end of the day today. Be sure to get the textbook, in a one-month class having the book from the beginning is so important! As soon as you log in, be sure that you have done all of the following: post your first Discussion messages, post your first Mail message to me, and post your first practice Assignment Tool. Also, you should be reading pages 1-12 in the class textbook and posting in the discussion areas on these pages.

6/6 - 6/10 Clinical Ethics, Introduction pp 1-12

This is the first part of the book you have to read, and the first Discussion work you have to do in class. Please try to do your posting on the Introduction and pages 1-12 of the book as soon as you can, June 11 at the latest!

6/11 - 6/13 Clinical Ethics, Chapter 1, pp 13-46, Interventions, Refusal of Treatment, Death

6/14 – 6/17 Exam 1 will be emailed out this week and must be turned in by the Assignment Tool as a Word .doc by 6/17 by the end of the day (approximately 11:00pm.) During the week, also read Clinical Ethics, Chapter 2, pp 51-82, Informed Consent, Capacity, Diversity, Truth, Advance Planning

6/18 Graduate Student Literature Review and Précis are Due

6/18 - 6/20 Read Clinical Ethics chapter 2, 83-108; Mentally Incapacitated Patients, Limits of Patient Preferences

Please note that June 19 is the official midterm date of Summer Session II. (Midterm dates at VSU do not always refer to a midterm exam, instead, it may be important for you to know the midterm date in relation to Withdrawal from courses. This is the case in our class.)

6/21 - 6/24 Paper 1 will be assigned this week, and must be turned in by Assignment Tool as a Word .doc by Wednesday 6/24 at 11:00pm. Read CE chapter 3, pp 109-158; Quality of Life, Euthanasia, Physician Assisted Suicide

6/25 Graduate Level Extensive Research Paper Due

6/25 - 6/28 Read Clinical Ethics chapter 4, pp 159-221, Economics and Allocation, Health Care Management Issues

6/29 Final Exam assigned and open in Assignment Tool.

7/1 Last official class meeting date for Summer Session III.

7/1 Wednesday: Final Exams are due for all Summer Session II courses. (You can turn them in anytime before 5pm on this date by the Assignment Tool as a Word .doc attachment.)

Discussion Advice

In the online environment the Discussions area acts as the classroom. It's where you'll meet the other students, engage in discussion, ask questions and post some assignments.

Your participation grades will be based on your posts to Discussions. Every course takes some time to ramp up. That is, to get the discussion going. The first week some students have difficulty getting on. Then everyone has to get acclimatized to the surroundings and catch up... Then everyone has to get used to checking in on a regular basis... Then, everyone has to be focused on the discussion. It takes a lot but it will happen and you'll get a lot out of it.

So don't become passive, waiting for others to chime in. If nothing's happening, post more! You'll make it easier for other students to join in. Online instructors will use these guidelines to grade your participation and the content, timeliness, support and use of language of your posts.

Some general values in online Discussions:

Participation

Content of Post

Timeliness

Support, backing up your claims

Use of Language

Use of Text, Citations, Research

What do grades mean in online Discussions:

Grade of A = Provides comments regularly. Interacts with a variety of participants. Reveals solid understanding of topic as evidenced by original and thoughtful posts, responses and questions. Has considered the arguments deeply. Posting meets deadline Comments well supported Complete sentences, well organized, grammatically correct and free of spelling errors.

Grade of B = Provides comments in a regular manner. Reveals adequate understanding of topic. Has considered the arguments well. Posting meets deadline Comments mostly well supported. Complete sentences, well organized, but some grammar and/or spelling errors.

Grade of C = Provides comments in a regular manner. Reveals adequate understanding of topic. Has considered the arguments. Posting meets deadline Comments mostly well supported. Complete sentences, but argument isn't coherent. Has three or more grammar and/or spelling errors

per paragraph.

Grade of D = Sporadically provides comments. Interacts with only one or two participants. Reveals a restricted understanding of the topic limited to information that could be derived from online material and prior posts. Posting fails to meet deadline Comments somewhat well supported Poor sentence structure, inadequate organization, several grammar and/or spelling errors.

Grade of F = Provides minimal comments and information to other participants. Reveals a lack of understanding of the topic. Posting fails to meet deadline Comments not very well supported Poor sentence structure, confusing organization, many grammar and/or spelling errors.

A few more pointers: Length does not equal quality. It depends on what's in there. A high number of posts does not mean you're doing high quality work. Formatting makes a difference. Preview your messages to make sure they don't come out as giant paragraphs. Use subheadings to help you organize your thoughts.

In general, you want every post you make (in the questions on the readings pages) to be detailed. Cite specific information from the readings and use quotes. Also, remember that your grade includes 1) your own first post in response to the questions, 2) how you debate with other students and keep the conversation going, especially by replying to other students in class (that's why you should do some messages every day even if you don't see a new question yet, and 3) how many of the other students' posts you opened and read. WebCT Vista keeps track of how many of your fellow students' posts you actually read and I can see those numbers, so if you only open and read 5 other people's posts on a topic, but someone else was reading all 200 in the topic and replied to 20 other students, they would probably get the higher grade compared to you as long as those posts were substantive and well detailed and well written.

Tips on Philosophy Courses

Tips for doing well in Philosophy classes, adapted from a handout by Robert Scott

1. Read text with a pencil and underline the important ideas and key concepts. Write down technical ideas, key terms, key distinctions between two terms, definitions, diagrams, etc. to help you remember them.

2. Write questions or reactions you have to the text in the margin of the book. Ask about these questions in class, and

keep them in mind, since they may provide good points to make about that author in papers you will write for class.

3. Read ahead to see the ultimate objectives of the chapter and of the individual readings. Keep in mind the overall picture of the chapters given in the introductory sections to each chapter in the book.

4. Work with the new terminology frequently, and try to apply it to situations outside of class. I would recommend flash cards to help you memorize the meanings of new terms quickly.

5. For longer readings, be sure to review the reading as a whole after you have read it section-by-section. What was the main question the author wanted to address? What were the answers? What concepts were used to make the points?

6. When confronted with a difficult reading or question, break it down into parts, and into individual ideas. This will at least help to clarify the question, even if it might not give the answer. And for philosophy, clarifying the question is really half the battle!

7. Ponder an unsolved problem and return to it every so often to see if it will give. Inspiration may happen at an unexpected time, and the subconscious mind does work on problems even when we aren't consciously aware of it.

8. Begin work on all the class tasks early, and spread out your work over time so as to maximize your chances for comprehending the readings accurately, memorizing the information, and grappling with the questions for papers.

9. If you do need to meet with an instructor outside of class, be sure to have your questions for the instructor planned out ahead of time, to make the meeting as productive as possible.

10. Always think about the philosophical issues for yourself, rather than waiting to be told what to think or believe.

11. Study for all exams on a daily basis, for at least a week before the exam date. You will need to know who said what, from memory.

12. Try to anticipate the questions that will be asked on an examination beforehand. Questions may come from the readings or from lectures and class discussions, but in either case, certain terms and concepts will be emphasized more than others.

13. Listen carefully to different points of view, and actively respond (when you read, when you are in class, and when

you write your philosophy papers)!

14. Philosophy involves skills, like learning to appreciate a good debate, learning to imagine the world differently than we assume it to be, and appreciating the world with a sense of wonder.