

## PHIL 4336: Applied Ethics in Health Sciences

Fall 2018, Section 701: M 4:00-5:40

Instructor: D.J. Hobbs, Ph.D.

*Office:* Marquette Hall #008Y

*Office Hours:* Monday and Friday, 2:00-3:30, and by appointment

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**Course Description:** This course will serve as an introduction to ethical theory, with a particular emphasis on its practical role in the moral decisions made by the healthcare professional. We will examine various aspects of our moral lives, both in general and in the specific context of healthcare, including topics such as the value of life, the patient-medical care provider relationship, and the role of empathy and the notion of human rights in healthcare, among others. The course will take a holistic approach, focusing on concepts and examples, both historical and contemporary, from throughout philosophy and health science. The course will contain both lecture and student participation – discussion is highly encouraged.

### Course Objectives:

By the end of the course,

1. The students will be able to state and provide reasons for basic positions in the field of healthcare ethics on the topics mentioned in the course description. *Means of Assessing:* Class Participation, Response Papers
2. The student will be able to state and provide reasons for various models of the role, identity, and obligations of the healthcare provider and of the nature of the relationship between provider and patient. *Means of Assessing:* Class Participation, Response Papers
3. The student will be able to compare and contrast positions concerning the particular issues in the field of healthcare ethics studied in the course. *Means of Assessing:* Class Participation, Response Papers
4. The student will be able to take up and defend a position on some aspect of healthcare ethics that addresses significant objections to the position. *Means of Assessing:* Final Paper

### Course Texts:

Course readings will be provided on D2L. All readings are to be completed by the class for which they are assigned.

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to complete three response papers (2-3 pages), one group presentation, and one final paper (5-6 pages).

*Response Papers:* Students are expected to turn in three two-to-three page responses to the course readings. These response papers are to focus on taking up and defending the student's own position on some element of one of the readings for the week it is turned in: supporting or arguing against an argument contained in the reading, a comparison with alternative cases, etc. The papers must consist of at least two double-spaced pages of good philosophical writing, but are to be no more than three pages in length each. These papers are meant to assist the students in developing proficiency in ethical reasoning and philosophical writing before composing the final paper, and I will return them with comments intended to help the students develop their writing skills. The response papers may be turned in during any normal class periods the student wishes, but all three are due no later than the class of Monday, October 8.

*Group Project:* Each week, beginning with the class of Monday, September 17, a group of students will present a case study relating to the course readings for that week. Each presentation should last roughly 10-15 minutes and should be oriented towards opening up discussion of the current topic(s) of the course in the context of a concrete example that is *not* addressed by the readings themselves. Each group should

prepare a (properly cited) handout, PowerPoint, etc. to go along with its presentation; these files should be submitted to me via email before class.

*Paper:* The term paper (due on the last day of class) is to be 5-6 pages in length. More details on this paper will be given later in the semester. Students are expected to formulate their own paper topics (within the guidelines to be given later) and are required to discuss their final papers with the instructor in advance of the due date. I will also be available to read preliminary drafts.

*Grading Policy:* The breakdown of the final grade for the course is as follows:

Response Papers: 15% of total grade each, for a total of 45% for all three papers

Group Project: 15% of total grade

Final Paper: 30% of total grade

Participation (to be assessed through in-class discussions): 10% of total grade

The grading scale is as follows:

A: 100% – 94%

A-: 93% – 90%

B+: 89% – 87%

B: 86% – 83%

B-: 82% – 80%

C+: 79% – 77%

C: 76% – 73%

C-: 72% – 70%

D+: 69% – 67%

D: 66% – 63%

F: 62% or below

## **Course Policies:**

*Attendance:* As per the university undergraduate attendance policy, students are responsible for attending all class meetings for courses in which they are registered. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Repeated absences will lower the student's participation grade.

*Late Papers:* The response papers are due during any normal class periods up to and including that of Monday, October 8. The final paper is due on the date of this course's final exam. *No late papers will be accepted.*

*Students with Disabilities:* Any student with a relevant disability should contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible so that they can make the proper academic accommodations for you. The Office of Disability Services at Marquette is here to help any student with a disability succeed in the classroom, but they must be notified of your disability before they can help. The ODS can be reached by telephone at 414.288.1645 or by email at [ods@marquette.edu](mailto:ods@marquette.edu).

*Policy on Electronic Devices:* Electronic devices used to take lecture notes or access course materials are permitted in class. Use of electronic devices for other purposes (e.g. entertainment or communication) is not permitted. Cell phones, etc., are to be turned off for the duration of class.

*Statement on Academic Dishonesty:* Academic dishonesty of any kind will be reported to the Academic Integrity Council. Examples include, but are not limited to: cheating (copying answers or using unauthorized electronic devices during an examination, presenting another person's work as one's own, etc.), plagiarism (unethical use of unauthorized sources, using another's ideas or words without proper attribution, etc.), and academic fraud (submitting substantial portions of the same work for more than one

course without receiving permission from all instructors involved, etc.). If you have questions about whether something counts as academic dishonesty, feel free to ask.

## Course Schedule:

DATE:	TOPIC:	ASSIGNMENT:
8/27	Introduction to the Course	None
9/3	Labor Day: No Class	None
9/10	Healthcare and Life	“Hippocratic Oath” “Declaration of Geneva” Velleman: “A Right to Self-Termination?” (606-620)
9/17	The Patient as a Person	James Marcum: “Patient as Body or Person,” <i>An Introductory Philosophy of Medicine</i> (49-61)
9/24	Phenomenology and Empathy	Benner: “The Phenomenon of Care,” <i>Handbook of Phenomenology and Medicine</i> , (351-369)
10/1	The Provider as a Person	Aristotle: <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II
10/8	Medical Practice as Praxis	Pellegrino and Thomasma: “Phronesis,” <i>The Virtues in Medical Practice</i> , (84-91) All Response Papers Due
10/15	Conclusions: Living and Dying	Paulus: “Palliative Care: An Ethical Obligation” Final Paper Due

This schedule is subject to revision as needed. The exact pace of the course will depend on how quickly we are able to cover the essential points of each reading.