

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
Human Values and the Health Sciences PH-447

Instructor: Gary English, PhD, CHES

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Office Hours: M, 2:00-3:00, Tu&Th 2:00-4:00 or by appointment.

**This course has been approved as a Colonnade Connections course under the Social & Cultural sub-category.*

Course Description: This course is designed to help students explore and analyze some of the difficult ethical, legal, and social dilemmas confronting patients, medical practitioners and other health-care professionals in contemporary society. Consideration will be given to the philosophical, theoretical, and practical aspects facing both, health care providers and health care consumers. Students will be presented with ethical situations commonly encountered in the delivery and consumption of health care services. Students will also be exposed to various Codes of Ethics which guide the health professions. Through the use of case studies students will be challenged to resolve an array of ethical dilemmas. Finally, students will discuss a contemporary health and medical ethics case study.

This course is structured differently than your traditional 16 week course. It is pretty much self-paced meaning that you can proceed at your own pace (within the confines of the dates the course is offered). However, **you will need to complete some of the modules before you can move on to the next.** This course also requires students to be familiar with Blackboard. Course assignments can be found here and you will be expected to submit your work to me using this utility. All class material will be archived here as well.

Required text: 1- Ruggiero, V.R., Thinking Critically about Ethical Issues 8th ed. (2012), McGraw Hill Publishers.

2- Picoulet, J., My Sister's Keeper (2004) Atria Books: New York. [ISBN 9781416549178](#). [ISBN 141654917X](#).

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the role of personal values and principles as they apply to ethical decision making.

2. Discuss significant ethical theories in terms of their key values or principles.
3. Recognize and discuss the obligations and ethical responsibilities of health care professionals to various stakeholders.
4. Identify and discuss the challenges inherent in clinical ethics in areas such as informed consent, patient self-determination, confidentiality, and genetic technologies.
5. Compare and contrast the ethical considerations of various perspectives regarding health care allocation, and access.
6. Analyze and synthesize the impact of health policy on various health issues and to various stakeholders.

Class Policies:

- All work will be submitted to the instructor on the Blackboard utility. Email is not acceptable.
- All communication for this course should be conducted using the email feature on Blackboard. Do not expect a response to emails sent from other accounts.
- Feedback on assignments will be sent to the student within 10 working days.
- Any evidence of academic misconduct shall be treated in accordance with college/university rules and procedures.
- All rebuts to grades earned must be made in writing and submitted in within one week after receiving the grade.
- Additional assignments for extra credit will not be given, please don't ask.
- Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aid or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services (OFSDS), located in the Student success Center in DUC A201. The OFSDS can be reached at (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter from the OFSDS.

WKU Policy on Plagiarism

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offence. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism.

WKU Policy on Cheating

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking examinations or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination.

Course Requirements:**Course Outline**

Date	Objectives Met	Content	Assignments Due
Module 1	1,2	Course Introduction (The need for Ethics) Plagiarism Basics of Ethics Writing about Moral Issues (pg. 192)	Quiz 1 Assignment 1 – The Nature of Man Start reading My Sister’s Keeper (<u>Do not wait until Module 9 to do this!</u>)
Module 2	1,2	The Role of the Majority View & The Role of Feelings	Inquiry Module 2
Module 3	1,2	The Role of Conscience	Inquiry Module 3 Assignment 2 – Right or Wrong
Module 4	1,2	The Role of Culture in Ethics	Inquiry Module 4
Module 5	3,4	A Foundation for Judgment Codes of Ethics	Assignment 3 – Code of Ethics
Module 6	3,4	Basic Criteria	Assignment 4 – Health & Medicine Lightning Rods
Module 7	2,3,4	Considering Obligations	Inquiry Module 7
Module 8	4,5,6	Moral Ideals	Inquiry Module 8
Module 9	1,2,3,4,5,6	My Sister’s Keeper	Assignments 5 -6-7
Module 10	3,4,5,6	Considering Consequences	Inquiry Module 10
Module 11	3,4,5,6	Determining Moral Responsibility	Inquiry Module 11

Module 12	5,6	Dollars & Dentists	Case Study
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Evaluation		Possible Points
Module 1	Assignment 1 - The Nature of Man	30
	Quiz 1	20
Module 2	Inquiry's	30
Module 3	Inquiry's	20
	Assignment 2	30
Module 4	Inquiry's	20
Module 5	Assignment 3	30
Module 6	Assignment 4	50
Module 7	Inquiry's	20
Module 8	Inquiry's	20
Module 9	Assignment 5 & Blackboard Discussion	55
	Assignment 6 Stem Cell & Discussion	55
	Assignment 7 Emancipation	30
Module 10	Inquiry's	20
Module 11	Inquiry's	20
Module 12	Dollars & Dentist (Case Study)	80
	Total Points Possible	530

Grading Scale

A = 100-90% of points possible

B = 89-80%

C = 79-70%

D = 69-60%