

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

Instructor: Gary English, PhD, CHES

Office: Academic Complex 131

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

Prerequisites: Completion of 6 credits in the social, behavioral, biological, or allied health sciences.

Catalogue Description: An analysis of the difficult ethical, legal, and social dilemmas confronting the health care delivery system, patients, medical practitioners and other health care professionals in contemporary American society.

Course Description: This course is designed to explore and analyze some of the difficult ethical, legal, and social dilemmas confronting social justice advocates as well as the health care delivery system in contemporary society. Consideration will be given to the philosophical, theoretical, and practical aspects facing health care providers and consumers using the universal lenses of economics, public policy, self-determination, confidentiality, and genetic technology. Students will review a variety of professional Codes of Ethics and identify common moral themes. Through the use of case studies students will be challenged to resolve an array of ethical dilemmas. Finally, students will identify components of a broken system, deconstruct its components and propose a way to reconstruct this system demonstrating ethical decision making skills that are empirically based.

This course 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. PowerPoint's and other 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 [ISBN 978-0-07-353590-6.](#)
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 stake holders.

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.
- Assignments must be turned into Blackboard by 5:00 PM Friday the week they are due. Late assignments or assignments sent by email will not be accepted after they are due unless specific arrangements have been made prior to the due date.
- 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 turned 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) 7455004 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:

Assignment 1: The Nature of Man

Assignment 2: Student paper on the video, ***The Vaccine War OR Health Care.***

Assignment 3: Right or wrong?

Assignment 4: Codes of Ethics.

Assignment 5: Health & Medicine Lightning

Assignment 6: RESEARCH the legal and medical ethics presented in the story **My Sisters Keeper:**

Assignment 7: Stem Cell vs. Umbilical Cord research

Assignment 8: Legal and ethical dilemmas regarding medical emancipation.

Assignment 9 - Ethical issues presented in the video **Dollars & Dentists.**

Assignment 10 – Dollars & Dentists from five perspectives.

Course Outline

Date	Content	Assignments Due
Week 1	The need for Ethics Plagiarism, Basics of Ethics	Read Chapters 1, complete the quiz over the Context for Ethics. Also Complete assignment 1 (The Nature of Man) by 5:00 Friday.
Week 2	Writing about Moral Issues (pg. 192)	Read the information about ‘writing about moral issues’ found in the appendix. Complete Inquiry 1 and Quiz 2 by 5:00 Friday.
Week 3	The Role of the Majority View The Role of Feelings	Read Chapters 2 & 3 and respond to two of the four Inquiries (items 1,6,12, or 13) found on pages 29-30. There should be a total of 2 responses.
Week 4	The Role of Conscience	Read Chapter 4 and respond to inquiry (items 2 and 3) found on page 48. Also, prepare a response for item 10 (d) on page 51. There should be a total of 3 responses. Complete assignment 2 (Right or Wrong) due by 5:00 Friday.
Week 5	The Role of Culture in Ethics	Read Chapter 5 and respond to inquiry (item 2 a, c, or d) found on page 63. Also, prepare a response for item 13 on page 64, OR item 12(c) on page 65. There should be a total of 2 responses.
Week 6	A Foundation for Judgment Codes of Ethics	Read Chapter 6 and complete assignment 4 (Codes of Ethics) Due by 5:00 Friday.
Week 7	Fall/Spring Break	Assignment 3 Vaccination paper due by 5:00 Friday.
Week 8	Basic Criteria	Read Chapter 7 and complete assignment 5 (Health & Medicine Lightning Rods) Due by 5:00 Friday.
Week 9	Considering Obligations	Read Chapter 8 and respond to inquiry item 2 found on page 118. Also, prepare a response for item 13 OR 16 on page 108, OR item 15 OR 16 on page 109. There should be only 2 responses.
Week 10	My Sisters Keeper	Complete assignments 6, 7, and 8 related to the book My Sisters Keeper. All assignments are due by 5:00 Friday.
Week 11	Moral Ideals	Read Chapter 9 and respond to inquiry item 4 found on page 107. Also, prepare a response for item 13, OR item 16 on page 120. There should be only 2 responses.

Week 12	Considering Consequences	Read Chapter 10 and respond to inquiry item 2(c) found on page 130. Also, prepare a response for item 5, OR item 6 on page 132. There should be only 2 responses.
Week 13	Determining Moral Responsibility	Read Chapter 11 and respond to inquiry item 8 found on page 140. Also, prepare a response for item 15 on page 141. There should be only 2 responses. Assignment 9 - Dollars & Dentists Paper due by 5:00 Friday
Week 14	Dollars & Dentists	Complete Assignment 9
Week 15	Dollars & Dentists	Complete Assignment 10
Week 16		Final Draft of papers due.

Evaluation -	Possible Points
Assignment 1 - The Nature of Man	30
Assignment 2 – Right or Wrong?	30
Assignment 3 - Vaccine Wars (Case Study)	80
Assignment 4 – Code of Ethics	30
Assignment 5 – Health & Medicine Lightning Rods	40
Assignment 6 – Medical Ethics Terminology	30
Assignment 7 – Stem Cell & Umbilical Cord Research	20
Assignment 8 – Legal & Ethical Crossroads	20
Assignment 9 – Dollars & Dentists Paper 1	50
Assignment 10 – Dollars & Dentists Paper 2	50
Inquiry's	140
Quiz 1	30
Quiz 2	35
Total Points Possible	585

Grading Scale

A = 100-90% of points possible

B = 89-80%

C = 79-70%

D = 69-60%