**WESTERN KENTCUKY UNIVERSITY**
**Human Values and the Health Sciences**
**PH-447-700 (Spring 2023)**

**Instructor:** Sabita Shrestha, PhD, MSW
**Office:** Academic Complex 128C (Southern Entrance)
**Office Phone:** 270- 745-4228
**Email:** sabita.shrestha@wku.edu
**Office Hours:** By appointment ONLY (Virtual or In-Person)
*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 F2F course. It is presented in a weekly folder so it is pretty much self-paced meaning that you can proceed at your own pace. However, you will need to adhere to the due dates. LATE ASSIGNEMNTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

This course requires students to be familiar with Blackboard. Course assignments can be found on Blackboard, and you will be expected to submit your work via Blackboard LMS. This course requires critical thinking and extensive writing in APA format. Be familiar with the APA formatting.

**Required text:** 1- Ruggiero, V.R., Thinking Critically about Ethical Issues 10th ed. (2020), McGraw Hill Publishers. ISBN 978-1-260-68636-4

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

**Supplemental Readings:** Additional reading materials will be assigned.

**APA Formatting:**

Writing Style (APA): For the purposes of this class, whenever you cite a source always use proper American Psychological Association (APA) style guidelines. If you are not familiar with the style, I have included links that will assist you with learning on how to write using this format. The APA website offers an overview of the guidelines http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html or go to "Purdue Owl" website for the *APA Publication Manual 6th or 7th Edition* when needed.

## 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. Compare 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 assess 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 LMS. *Email is not acceptable.*
- All communication for this course should be conducted using the WKU email feature on Blackboard. Do not expect a response to emails sent from other accounts.
- Feedback on assignments will be available to the student within 7 working days.
- Assignments must be turned into Blackboard by 11:59 PM CST Sunday the week they are due. **Late assignments** and or **assignments sent by email will not be accepted** after they are due unless **specific arrangements have been made prior to the due date**.
- **Technology issues are not an excuse for late assignment.** If you experience technology problems, it is **your responsibility to Help Desk at (270-745-7000)** immediately. Remember you have the flexibility of working at your leisure; therefore, plan accordingly.
- No excuses for not having a book or not arriving on time. Plan ahead.
- Assignments **MUST** be submitted in **Word document**. PDF or any other formats will not be acceptable.
- If any issues or problems arise, contact me immediately. Do not wait until the last minute.
- Pay attention to Blackboard time (CST), NOT your clock time.
- Do Not ask for higher grades, additional points, or bump up a letter grade after the grade submission.
- Any evidence of academic misconduct shall be treated in accordance with college/university rules and procedures.
- This course **requires critical thinking and extensive writing.** And be familiar with APA format/style.
- Contact **writing center** if you **need help or review** your work.
- If you have lengthy questions or concerns, I suggest making an appointment to meet in-person, and discuss your concerns or problems.
- **Check announcements regularly** for any updates or assignments.
- All rebuts to grades earned must be made in writing and submitted in within one week after receiving the grade.

## ADA Policy

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via

email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a Faculty Notification Letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

## Regular and Substantive Interaction on Online and Distance Learning
The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage.
In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Weekly announcements and reminders.
- Providing information and responding to questions about the course content and assignments on timely manner.
- Assignment and assessment deadlines that are spread throughout the semester.
- Provide constructive feedback on assignments within one week.
- Facilitation in a weekly discussion board about course content.
- Provide guidance and instruction on course content.

## Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault
Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.
Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270- 745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

## 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.

### Evaluation Criteria

- Discussion Board Activities → 120 pts.
- Quizzes → 40 pts.
- Ethics Research Paper → 50 pts.
- Assignments → 100 pts.
- Exams (2@ 50) → 100 pts.
  **Total** **410 pts.**

### Grading Scale

- A = 369 – 410 pts.
- B = 328 – 368 pts.
- C = 287 – 327 pts.
- D = 246 – 286 pts.
- F = < 245 pts.

*Note: This is a tentative syllabus. The <u>instructor reserves the right to change course contents, assignments, schedules, procedures, and evaluation criteria based on the class performances or other issues</u>. You will be notified of any changes.* ***Any additional assignment points will be added to the total points***.