



Douglas
College

EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2004
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL**

Effective Date: **SEPTEMBER 2004**
September 2004

B: Department / Program Area: **PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES**
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Revision

New Course

If Revision, Section(s) Revised:

A,B,C,F,M,N,an

What obligations do medical practitioners have?
When, if ever, is lying to a patient justified? How much should a patient be told? When, if ever, is it justifiable to interfere with a patient's liberty for their own good? How important is confidentiality? How can death best be defined? How important is the autonomy of the elderly and the mentally challenged? When, if ever, is experimentation justified on h

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

Successful students will be able to:

1. Explain the ethical theories and concepts covered in the course.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the moral controversies covered in the course.
3. Reflect in a critical way about the moral issues which arise in the delivery and practice of medical care.
4. Develop more effective methods for making up their minds about moral issues related to the delivery and practice of medical care.
5. Apply ethical theory to the resolution of moral issues related to the delivery and practice of medical care.
6. Explain the moral reasoning involved in viewpoints directly opposed to one another.
7. Develop their own reasoning about the moral controversies.

N: Course Content

Instruction in this course will cover the following six areas:

1. The nature of ethics - including the relation between ethics & morality, and morality & law; a simple introduction to the basic types of ethical theories: such as, consequentialism (e.g. utilitarianism), deontological theories (e.g. Kantian or moral intuitionism); and rights theories. An elucidation of basic ethical concerns and concepts in the health care context, such as autonomy and paternalism, and of relevant principles pertaining to them. The application of such ethical theory to the resolution of moral issues related to the delivery and practice of medical care.
2. The ethical dimensions of the relation between medical care practitioners and client & patients - including such topics as codes of medical ethics, the ethical nature of the nurse-patient relationship, the physicians' "duty to treat", hospitals and patients rights, and hospital ethics committees. This may encompass a consideration of such moral topics as autonomy, truth-telling, informed consent, confidentiality, and the resolution of conflicting obligations;
3. Ethical concerns regarding human and animal experimentation, and regarding the status and rights of adults with less than full autonomy. This may encompass a consideration of such topics as informed consent and proxy consent, the status of the concept of mental illness, sterilization, and institutional commitment and release.
4. The ethical dimensions of such life and death issues as suicide, euthanasia, infant ()6(th)-5(g84(ci)4(cal)7bicn,calas .r-TJ0.

O: Methods of Instruction

The course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following:

A combination of lecture and discussion (possibly including student presentations). Some class sessions may involve formal lectures for the entire time (allowing time for questions), in which case a later class session will allow discussion of the lecture and reading material. Other class sessions may involve a combination of informal lecture and structured discussion

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

Texts will be updated periodically. A typical example is: