

## **MEDICAL ETHICS**

### **Instructor:**

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Location: CB1.110  
Meeting Day: Tuesday  
Meeting Time 7:00 PM – 9:45 PM

### **Course Description:**

This course analyzes the methodologies and specific ethical issues related to the biomedical sciences/medicine. In particular, we will look at the reasons for the emergence of the field of medical ethics in its current form (bioethics) and why it rapidly gained social recognition as many bioethicists became increasingly prominent in their role as consultants in various settings (clinical, academic, and political). We will then critically examine various methodologies used in bioethical discourse (professional codes, principlism, casuistry, etc.) that ground our subsequent reflections on specific ethical problems in the biomedical sciences. In the final section, we will turn to specific issues that include autonomy, paternalism, truthfulness, abortion, euthanasia, allocation of health care resources, etc.

### **Objectives of the course:**

- 1) To develop the critical skills necessary for understanding and evaluating arguments, claims and policies related to the biomedical sciences;
- 2) To gain the ability to identify some of the philosophical, moral, political, legal and social issues raised in the biomedical sciences;
- 3) To develop the intellectual skills for the resolution of concrete cases;
- 4) To encourage thoughtful and respectful discussions on topics related to medical ethics.

### **Course Requirements**

- 1. Attendance and active class participation.** Active class participation is expected. You should come to class prepared to discuss critically the readings assigned for each session. **Sign in required in each session.** **Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.**

2. **Oral presentation.** Short group presentation (two or three students) of 30 minutes on the topic discussed that week.
3. **Mid-term paper (1800 words)** due on **February 19, 2008** in class.
4. **Final 3000 word paper** due on **April 22, 2008** in class. You are welcome to discuss the topic of your papers with me in advance, but I will not review written drafts of the papers prior to submission.

**Grading:**

Attendance/Class Participation	25%
Oral Presentation	25%
Mid-term Paper	25%
Final Paper	25%

**Criteria for Grading Papers:**

In your papers, I ask you to state and defend a position on a significant moral issue in health care or a moral issue in health care policy. Be sure to **title your paper and clearly state the thesis you are defending**. Your paper will be graded not on the position you defend, but on the following standard:

Criteria: developing a clear and original thesis, identifying an issue, defending a position, stating alternative positions of importance, documenting factual claims, acknowledging major weaknesses of your position, and explaining key terms.

Please note: footnote any sources you use and put direct quotes in quotation marks; plagiarism results in automatic failure of the course (see plagiarism policy below). Generally a successful paper will:

1. state a position;
2. defend it; and
3. raise the most pertinent objection(s) to the position defended.

Your paper will suffer if you omit a good criticism of your position.

**Tips:**

1. The paper should be double-spaced.
2. Pick a topic or question that raises a moral or social issue associated with the practice of medicine.
3. Do not write a report that is purely factual (although factual evidence is sometimes important).
4. Do not merely summarize an article on your topic. Even if you provide appropriate documentation, it does not represent original work.
5. The more of you and your arguments that are in the paper, the better.
6. Pick a focused topic. If the topic is too broad, you will not be able to do it justice in a short paper.

7. Pick a topic with some controversy. Do not write a paper on “Doctors should not eat their patients.” If it is an obvious conclusion, it is not worth writing or reading about.
8. A good test of your topic is whether there are any good arguments to the contrary. If you can think of no arguments to the contrary, either you have a poor topic, or you have not fully analyzed the problem.
9. Originality and innovation are rewarded.
10. Identify and discuss (at least briefly) the most important objections to your position.
11. Take a position, even if you are not entirely comfortable with it. The exercise is to identify the important arguments and moral considerations regarding a position and its alternatives.
12. Your grade is based in large measure on how well you identify and develop key arguments in regards to your position.

### **Required Text:**

- Steinbock, Bonnie, John D. Arras, & Alex John London (eds.) (2003). *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: McGraw Hill.

### **On Reserve:**

- AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (1999). “Medical Futility in End-of-Life Care: Report of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs”, *JAMA* 281, pp. 937-941.
- Beauchamp, Tom L, & LeRoy Walters (2003). *Contemporary Issues in Bioethics*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, pp. 21-28
- Beauchamp, Tom L. & James F. Childress (2001). *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Caplan Arthur L., James J. McCartney & Dominic A. Sisti (Eds.) (2004). *Health Disease and Illness. Concepts in Medicine*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
- De Ville, Kenneth A. (1994). "What Does the Law Say? Law, Ethics, and Medical Decision Making," *Western Journal of Medicine* 160, pp. 478-480
- Gorovitz, S., and MacIntyre, A. (1976). “Toward a Theory of Medical Fallibility”. *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 1, pp. 51- 71.
- Havelly, Amir (2000). “Confidentiality” in *20 Common Problems – Ethics in Primary Care*, Jeremy Sugarman (ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill Health Professions Divisions, pp. 149-160.
- Moskop, John (1999). “Current Ethical Aspects of Organ Procurement and Transplantation in North America”, *Balliere’s Clinical Anaesthesiology* 13, pp. 195-210.
- Munson, R. (1981). “Why medicine cannot be a science”. *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 6, pp. 183-208.
- Pellegrino, Edmund D. (2001). “The Internal Morality of Clinical Medicine: A Paradigm for the Ethics of the Helping and Healing Professions”, *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 26:6, pp. 559-579.

- Truog, Robert, Allan S. Brett, and Joel Frader (1992). "The Problem with Futility," *New England Journal of Medicine* 326, pp. 1560-1564.

### SCHEDULE AND READINGS

DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
<b>JANUARY 8</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	Syllabus, requirements, papers, etc.
<b>JANUARY 15</b>	<b>Is Medicine a Science?</b>	Gorovitz & MacIntyre, pp. 51- 71 Munson, pp. 183-208 Engel, pp. 51-64 (in <i>Health Disease and Illness</i> )
<b>JANUARY 22</b>	<b>What is Moral Reasoning? Moral Reasoning in Medical Context</b>	Steinbock et al, pp. 1-41 Deville, pp. 478-480 (on reserve)
<b>JANUARY 29</b>	<b>Moral Dimension of Medicine</b>	Pellegrino, pp. 559-579 (on reserve)
<b>FEBRUARY 5</b>	<b>Some Principles of Medical Ethics</b>	Beauchamp & Walters, pp. 21-28 (on reserve) Beauchamp & Childress, pp. 57-65, 113-119, 165-176, 225-239 (on reserve)
<b>FEBRUARY 12</b>	<b>Moral Dimension of the Patient-Physician Relationship Autonomy / Paternalism</b>	Steinbock et al, pp. 43-54 Steinbock et al, pp. 55-64
<b>FEBRUARY 19 (MID-TERM PAPER)</b>	<b>Experiments on Human Subjects Informed Consent Vulnerable Populations</b>	Steinbock et al, pp. 705-706, 738-745 Steinbock et al, pp. 83-90, 92-99 Steinbock et al, pp. 787-811
<b>FEBRUARY 26</b>	<b>Truthfulness Confidentiality</b>	Steinbock et al, pp. 76-82 Halevy, pp. 149-160 (on reserve) Beauchamp & Childress, pp. 303-312 (on reserve)
<b>MARCH 4</b>	<b>Decision Capacity Right to Refuse Treatment Euthanasia</b>	Steinbock et al, pp. 290-305 Steinbock et al, pp. 283-287 Steinbock et al, pp. 377-414
<b>MARCH 11 (SPRING BREAK)</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>MARCH 18</b>	<b>Justice and Health Care  Methods for Rationing Health Care</b>	Steinbock et al, pp. 155-164, 177-186 Steinbock et al, pp. 201-222

<b>MARCH 25</b>	<b>Organ Donation / Selling Organs</b>	<b>Moskop, pp. 195-210 (on reserve)</b>
<b>APRIL 1</b>	<b>Abortion</b>	<b>Steinbock et al, pp. 461-500</b>
<b>APRIL 8</b>	<b>Surrogate Decision Making</b>	<b>Steinbock et al, pp. 323-341, 348-353, 357-368</b>
	<b>Advance Directives</b>	<b>Steinbock et al, pp. 309-321</b>
<b>APRIL 15</b>	<b>Definition of Death</b>	<b>Steinbock et al, pp. 259-282</b>
	<b>Medical Futility</b>	<b>Truog, Brett &amp; Frader, 1560-1564 (on reserve)</b>
		<b>AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, 937-941 (on reserve)</b>
<b>APRIL 22</b>	<b>Genetics</b>	<b>Steinbock et al, pp. 553-563, 571-591</b>
<b>(FINAL PAPER)</b>	<b>New Reproductive Technologies</b>	<b>Steinbock et al, pp. 595-624</b>

### **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part I, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

## **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

### **Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities**

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related



activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

([http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm))