COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: PHIL 1135: Bioethics

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College Level Reading and Writing
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 2/Critical Thinking, Goal 6/Humanities-The Arts, Literature and Philosophy, Goal 9/Ethical and Civic responsibility

This course provides background ethical theories, principles and concepts necessary to grasp the ethical issues in life, death, health care, biotechnology and the life sciences. Specific attention will be given to the social context of ethical decisions and there will be an emphasis on critical reasoning and justification. Special topics that may be discussed include: definitions of life and death, autonomy, paternalism, voluntary informed consent, rights, obligations, clinical trials, confidentiality, abortion and reproductive technologies, cloning, stem cells, end of life issues, transplantation and fair allocation of limited resources.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): November, 2012

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
Background Ethical Theories and Concepts
1. Ethical Theories
   a) Relativism
   b) Consequentialism/Utilitarianism
   c) Deontology/Kantian Ethics
   d) Care
   e) Principles-Based Ethics
   f) Casuistry/Reflective Equilibrium

2. Critical Concepts
   a) Autonomy/Competency
   b) Paternalism
   c) Beneficence/Non-Maleficence
   d) Justice
   e) Voluntary Informed Consent
   f) Privacy/Confidentiality
   g) Advance Directives/Proxy Care

Possible Areas of Application:
3. Death and Dying
   a) Definition of Death
   b) Euthanasia/Suicide/PAS
   c) Refusal of Treatment
   d) Artificial Support/Sustenance
   e) Palliation/Hospice

4. Clinical Traits/Experimentation
   a) Vulnerable Populations
   b) Experimental Design
   c) RCTs/IRBs
   d) Human/Animal Rights

5. Reproductive Technologies
   a) Abortion/Selective Termination
   b) Eugenics/Reprogenetics
   c) Birth Control
   d) Gene Therapy/Engineering
C. **OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:** Continued. . .
   e) Cloning
   f) I.V.F/G.I. F. T/Surrogacy

6. Social Justice
   a) Public v. Private Health
   b) Justice, Rights and Obligations
   c) Rationing and Managed Care
   d) Welfare and Socialized Medicine

7. Biotechnology
   a) Embryonic Stem Cells
   b) Organ Transplantation
   c) Synthetic Biology
   d) Biosecurity
   e) GM Foods and animals

D. **LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL):** The student will be able to:
   1. Identify and explain the major areas of ethical inquiry with regard to life, death, health care, biotechnology and life sciences.
   2. Understand logical forms of justification.
   3. Analyze moral concepts, principles and theories.
   4. Explain major bioethical concepts and terminology.
   5. Identify conclusions and premises of professional, moral arguments.
   6. Apply ethical theories to concrete situations.
   7. Formulate her own moral positions and justify them in written arguments.
   8. Appreciate multiculturalism and other world views.

E. **LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):**
   Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
   1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
   2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
   3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
   4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

   Goal 6/The Humanities—the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:
   1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
   2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
   3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

   Goal 9/Ethical and Civic Responsibility: The student will be able to:
   1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
   2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
   3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
   4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
   5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. **METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:**
   1. Papers
   2. Tests and Quizzes
   3. Journals
   4. Service learning projects
G. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S) ADDRESSED:
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Global Awareness/Diversity
- Civic Responsibility
- Personal/Professional Accountability
- Aesthetic Response

H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None