

Course discipline/number/title: PHIL 1135: Bioethics

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): None
4. Other requirements: None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy, Goal 9/Ethical and Civic Responsibility

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION: 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, and on reading and responding to philosophical works about medicine and biological research. 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.

C. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): November, 2021

D. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Background Ethical Theories and Concepts
  - a) Consequentialism/Utilitarianism
  - b) Deontology/Kantian Ethics
  - c) Feminist/Care Ethics
  - d) Principles-Based Ethics
  - e) Casuistry
2. Critical Concepts
  - a) Autonomy/Competence
  - b) Voluntary Informed Consent
  - c) Rights/Interests
  - d) Distributive Justice
3. Areas of Applied Ethics (may include but are not limited to):
  - a) Death and Dying
  - b) Clinical Trials/Human and Animal Experimentation
  - c) Abortion & Reproductive Technology
  - d) Social Justice and Public Health
  - e) Biotechnology

E. 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.

F. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):

Goal 6/Humanities – the Arts, Literature and Philosophy: The student will be able to:

1. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
2. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
3. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

- E. **LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):** Continued. . .  
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.
- G. **METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:** Methods may include but are not limited to:
1. Papers
  2. Tests and Quizzes
  3. Journals
  4. Service-learning projects
- H. **RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S).** This course contributes to meeting the following RCTC Core Outcome(s):  
Critical Thinking. Students will think systematically and explore information thoroughly before accepting or formulating a position or conclusion.
- Personal and Professional Accountability. Students will take responsibility as active learners for achieving their educational and personal goals.
- I. **SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):** None