

Course Outcome Summary

General Education Satisfier Course

PHIL 254 Introduction to Medical Ethics

Course Information

Division HSS

Course Number PHIL 254

Course Name Introduction to
Medical Ethics

Contact Hours 3

Total Credits 3

Prerequisites ENGL 151

Course Description

This course presents an introductory inquiry into the study and application of philosophical ethics to the practice of medicine. Different moral theories and modes of moral decision-making will be examined and implemented in order to navigate current issues in health care, though no particular moral view will be stressed over another. Topics to be surveyed will include, but are not limited to, paternalism and patient autonomy, confidentiality, abortion, euthanasia, informed consent, conscientious objection, genetic engineering, and justice in health care. This course will include writing assignments.

This course is approved as a General Education competency satisfier.

General Education Goal: Social and Cultural Awareness

Competency: Recognize expressions of the human experience

Learning Outcome: Students will explore, share, and reconstruct expressions of the human experience within the context of the past and present.

General Education Learning Objectives

- A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
- B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
- C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.
- D. Create or reconstruct an expression of the human experience and share with others (*if the class is performance based*).



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Course Outcomes

In order to evidence success in this course, the students will be able to:

1. Identify important contributions of ethical philosophy including, but not limited to: Virtue Ethics, Kantian Ethics, and Utilitarianism, as well as Natural Law Theory, Rawls' Contract Theory, The Ethics of Care, and Feminist Ethics.

Applies to General Education Objective

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 - C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.
2. Recognize the role and use of moral principles – e.g., autonomy, beneficence, utility, and justice – in cultures past and present.

Applies to General Education Objective

- A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
 - B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
 - C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.
3. Identify some features common to moral arguments and moral argumentation including, but not limited to: deduction, induction, validity, soundness, cogency, logical fallacies, and argument evaluation.

Applies to General Education Objective

- C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.



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4. Recognize and utilize the basic vocabulary of the field used to analyze relevant ethical and biomedical concepts.

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 - B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
5. Recognize the methods of philosophical ethics – e.g., critical reasoning, logical argument, and conceptual analysis – and understand how they can be applied to relevant biomedical issues.

Applies to General Education Objective

- A. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that influenced a particular form of creative human expression.
 - B. Analyze key events (including historical, social, economic, and/or personal) that demonstrate how a particular form of creative human expression influenced other works.
6. Recognize that biomedical ethics is a second-order activity, standing at one remove from its subject matter – related to the medical field in the same way that the philosophy of law is related to the legal realm, the philosophy of art is related to the work of the artist, or the philosophy of science relates to the specific science.

Applies to General Education Objective

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7. Recognize and analyze the differences between morality, ethics, law, and religion.

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8. Identify the ethical themes, arguments, and principles running through modern approaches to biomedical issues.

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- C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.

9. Identify the central beliefs and principles of a variety of philosophers and ethicists relevant to the field of biomedical ethics past and present.

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10. Demonstrate the ability to delineate the various aspects of particular positions on biomedical issues – e.g., abortion, physician assisted suicide, conscientious objection, genetic engineering, etc. – and the philosophical principles used to support them.

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- C. Evaluate a particular form of creative human expression in the context of the appropriate academic discipline.