

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus
PHIL 3223 Ethics of Health Care

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: None

Effective Catalog: 2023/24

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Examines the ethical dimensions of medical practice with a focus on contemporary moral controversies and concerns.

B. Additional Information

This course will serve as one of the electives for the minor in Philosophy and will help to expand the department's offerings.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of ethics for the practice of medicine.
2. Identify the major ethical principles and issues in the medical field.
3. Describe the major positions that have been put forward in response to these issues.
4. Analyze some of the common arguments used to justify positions in medical ethics and show how these relate to standard ethical theories.
5. Evaluate some of the common arguments that have been introduced to justify positions in medical ethics.
6. Develop his/her own arguments on various topics in medical ethics.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Ethical Decision Making

Students will examine and evaluate courses of action related to moral dilemmas and problems that arise in health-care.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will make oral presentations and prepare written documents to further develop some of the conceptual and linguistic skills necessary to successfully communicate ethical ideas to a wide audience.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will demonstrate understanding of the role that medical ethics has had in shaping cultures throughout the world.

III. Major Course Topics

A. Review of basic ethical theories and types of arguments

B. General Issues in Medical Ethics:

1. Patient-Provider Relationship
2. Resource Allocation
3. Consent to Treatment
4. Competence
5. Patient Rights

C. Specific Issues in Medical Ethics:

1. Issues in Reproduction (Abortion/In Vitro Fertilization/Artificial Insemination, etc.)
2. Issues in Genetics (Cloning/Genetic Engineering, etc.)
3. Research Involving Human Subjects
4. End of Life Issues (Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide/Palliative Care)