

SYLLABUS
Bellevue Community College
Health Science Education Wellness Institute
Bachelor of Applied Science Radiation and Imaging Sciences

Current Quarter: Spring 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Jason Benchimol

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours: By appointment only

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COURSE TITLE

PHIL365 Biomedical Ethics: Theory & Practice

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Examine ethical issues that arise in health care, such as provider-patient relations, death and dying, reproductive issues, human and animal experimentation, and bioethics and public policy. Students will develop the knowledge and skills needed to research, analyze, and evaluate positions taken on these or related issues. Special attention will be paid to the practical use of ethics in clinical practice and in public society.

INSTRUCTOR COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course in applied philosophy. We use the distinct philosophical methods of argumentation and analysis to examine ethical issues in modern medicine and in biomedical research. The broad aims of the course are: (a) development of ethical sensitivities that are necessary for the identification of ethical dimensions of, and moral reasoning about, particular issues that arise in the medical context; (b) refinement of general philosophical skills pertaining to argumentation and analysis; and (c) application of these sensitivities and skills in written analysis. Students will develop the ability to engage in moral reasoning about issues they are likely to encounter in the course of their own professional lives by consideration of some of the classic ethical issues in modern medicine.

PREREQUISITE

This course has no prerequisites. It is suitable for both veterans and newcomers to philosophy. That is, background in philosophy, while helpful, is neither assumed nor required. All that is required is a willingness to patiently read and digest some rather dense philosophical material, to be prepared to respectfully engage the course material in course discussion, and to spend a good amount of time sharpening your argumentative skills.

CREDITS AND HOURS

5 Credit Hours

The course is designed so that students should expect to spend a total of between 10-15 hours per week doing course-related work.

TEXT(S) AND MATERIALS

All readings are made available to students electronically. These readings will be posted for download on the course's Vista site.

GENERAL TEACHING METHODS

Lecture/Discussion, and other methods that may be adopted to suit student needs.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Intro to Ethical Theory.

A. Ethical theories relevant to biomedical contexts

B. Practical applications of ethical theories in biomedical contexts.

II. Issues and Case Studies in Biomedical Ethics.

Topics will vary, but may include:

A. Contested Therapies

B. Organ Donation

C. Advance Directives

D. Reprogenetics

E. Public policy

F. Disability Issues in Modern Medicine

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical theories by explaining ethical principles and the philosophical arguments that bear on them. Students will be asked to do this both in writing essay exams and in original research papers, and discussion.

2. Apply ethical principles to a broad range of biomedical issues. Students will demonstrate this ability in short writing assignments and/or essay exams.

3. Recognize and develop strategies for dealing with varying cultural perspectives on ethical issues through, for example, class discussions of cases involving intercultural interactions between patients and care providers.

4. Apply ethical principles in detailed studies of particular cases. Students will engage in ethical analysis of cases by applying their knowledge of ethical principles and theories in written assignments.

5. Evaluate arguments for and against proposed solutions to ethical dilemmas in the practice of medicine and biological research. Students will demonstrate this ability in writing and in class presentations and discussion.

EVALUATION METHODS

This is a “hybrid” course, which includes an online component. The final grade in the course shall be calculated out of a total of points accumulated from the following areas:

- Online component – 40%
- Homework Assignments – 30%
- Weekly In-Class Quizzes – 30%

Specific Comments on Grading:

- The online component is intended to constitute 2 credit hours for the course. This will consist primarily in reading articles and evaluating the arguments they contain. On occasion, students may be asked to watch a film and write about it.
- There will be a quiz at the end of every class session except for the first. You must be present in class (or, if you are a distance student, remotely during our class session) in order to take these quizzes. 20 minutes will be allotted for each quiz. You can miss one quiz without penalty to the final grade. Additionally, your lowest quiz score will be replaced with your highest quiz score.
- There will be a homework assignment due almost every week, beginning in week 2 of the course. You can access these assignments via the Vista site. More information will be provided as we move throughout the course. You can miss one homework assignment without penalty to the final grade. These will be graded on a "satisfactory/unsatisfactory" basis.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

There is no official “attendance policy”. But I imagine that it will be extraordinarily difficult to do well in the course if one is not in class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism. I am morally obligated to report cheating, plagiarism and other conduct that violates rules of academic integrity to administration and student services. You should consult the BCC course catalog for information on academic integrity. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, consult me *before* you write.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

I respectfully request that students do not engage in non-course-related activities during our class sessions. Your classmates will greatly appreciate your willingness to refrain from eating, surfing the web, reading other materials, text messaging, and any other behaviors that will detract from their learning experience.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Bellevue College Library Media Center has extensive resources available online for all Distance Education students. Become acquainted with the LMC homepage: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/>. By clicking on the Research Help link you will find copies of handouts as well as tutorial help, including the LMC Guide for BAS Students. The BCC Catalog will tell you which books and films the library owns. Full-text journal articles can be found by searching the EBSCOhost and Proquest databases, located under Periodicals / Databases.

Online access to the library is available 24 x 7, but personal help is available via telephone only when the library is open. Those hours are posted under Library Information on the homepage. The Reference Desk phone number is (425) 564-6161. At other times, you may e-mail bccref@bellevuecollege.edu. You will receive an answer as soon as the library opens again.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Bellevue Community College provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Students who need course accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, should notify the instructor as soon as possible. The responsibility for determining a student's eligibility for accommodations rests with Disability Resource Center. For more information, visit the Disability Resource Center in room B132, call (425) 564-2498 (TTY line (425) 564- 4110), or go to bellevuecollege.edu/drc.

AFFIRMATION OF INCLUSION

Bellevue Community College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at BCC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

For further information regarding the Bachelor of Applied science program and policies, see the BAS student handbook. For further information regarding BCC policies, programs and services, review the BCC student handbook at bellevuecollege.edu/stupro/handbook_cd2008/programs/default.html.