ETHICS: Bio-issues

0122-240-14, Spring 2009; T/R 8:30-10:15, KA 267

Professor Thomas Cavanaugh, Ph.D. 422-6356, e-mail:cavanaught@usfca.edu
KA-156, Office Hours: T 12:30-1:30, BY APPOINTMENT or DROP IN (I am often in my office TR)

Required Texts available in USF bookstore:
ARISTOTLE: *Nicomachean Ethics*
KANT: *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*
MILL: *Utilitarianism*
Mappes and DeGrazia: *Biomedical Ethics*, 6th ed.

OBJECTIVES:
To familiarize you with the principal ethical theories and to attend to the central disputes amongst the different ethical theories. To apply these distinct ethical theories to specific ethical issues associated with the practice of medicine, e.g., autonomy, confidentiality, abortion, euthanasia, conflicts of interest, cloning, and so on.

EVALUATION:
Attendance: To participate in an informed fashion, and thereby to take full advantage of this class, you must attend class; therefore, attendance will be taken during class. At the end of the semester, the attendance sheets will be used in conjunction with your class participation and abstracts (see below) as a basis for 30% of your grade. Only a doctor's note or a note indicating that your absence was due to an official University activity will excuse your absence.

Abstract/Precis of Readings:
To foster your informed participation in class discussions, you **must** hand in a two-three page typed double-spaced abstract/precis for each session's reading assigned for that class. The abstract should state what you take to be the central thesis of the reading and the most significant points made by the author(s). Your abstract cannot be incorrect or wrong as long as you present what you think the reading is about. Your attendance, class participation, and abstracts account for 30% of your grade. Late abstracts do not receive credit unless accompanied by a doctor's note or a note indicating that your absence was due to an official University activity.

Opposing Articles Review: (7-9 pages, typed, double-spaced; accounts for 20% of your final grade; DUE THURSDAY 5 MARCH) Choose two substantial (5,000 words or more/ 8 or more pages) opposing scholarly articles on a bio-ethical topic of interest to you and review the opposing articles. In your review of the articles, present the authors' principal arguments and what you take to be the strengths/weaknesses of the authors' arguments. Do you find one position more reasonable than another? State your reasons. You must choose an article from an **ACADEMIC** or **SCHOLARLY** journal (not Newsweek, Time, newspaper articles, internet articles) By TUESDAY 17 FEB you must notify me in writing of the articles that you want to review and the journals in which they appear. I will let you know if they are appropriate. To insure that you choose appropriate articles, you may present me with more than one set. When you hand in the hard copy of the paper, you will also hand in your copies of the articles. (20%)
Book Review: (7-9 pages, typed, double-spaced; accounts for 20% of your final grade; DUE

THURSDAY 16 APR). Using the resources of the library, find a book on some bioethical topic that interests you (physician-assisted suicide, abortion, animal experimentation, etc.). Present the main arguments found in the book and critically assess the position presented by the author(s). By TUESDAY 17 MAR you must notify me in writing of the book that you want to review and I will let you know if the book is appropriate. To insure that you choose an appropriate book, you may present me with more than one choice. Avoid edited volumes (books having numerous articles by different authors); try to find a book written by one author on one topic.

Final Paper: (9-11 pages, typed, double spaced; in lieu of a final exam this paper accounts for 30% of your final grade; DUE THURSDAY 14 MAY.) Present a position that you hold concerning some bioethical issue that you covered either in your opposing article's review or in your book review. Offer your reasons for holding this position. Offer what you take to be the most reasonable position opposed to your position and give what you take to be the best reasons for that position. In light of the best reasons for the position opposed to your position, indicate why, nonetheless, you take your position to be more reasonable. Identify the ethical theories at work in the opposing positions and discuss the extent to which these (or other factors such as beliefs about consequences) cause the opposition.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION: written assignments (with the exception of the Abstracts) must be placed in the on-line repository at www.turnitin.com (in addition to handing in a hard-copy to me). To do so, you will have to create a personal account. Here are the instructions: go to www.turnitin.com; click on "Create a User Profile"; select "Student"; click on "Next"; class ID# is "2564429" and the password is "012224014" (the course number). Follow the remainder of the directions to create your account. To submit your paper, log in to your account, click on the name of the class, find the appropriate assignment title, click on "Submit," and load your Assignment.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Philosophy (love of wisdom) seeks wisdom as the object of its love. Ethics attempts to articulate how to live in accordance with that wisdom that Philosophy loves. Bio-ethics applies ethical wisdom to issues primarily concerning human health. Discussions of virtue, justice, and goodness at times profoundly affect students for good or ill while at other times appear to have no effect. This leads Socrates to think that the outcome of ethical education results in part as a gift from the divine. Putting such sobering considerations aside, by the end of the semester you will be able to:

1.) Define the following prominent ethical theories: Consequentialism, Deontology, Teleology, Natural Law, and an Ethics of Care.
2.) Identify the above ethical theories as they are employed in contemporary bio-ethical debates.
3.) Read and cogently summarize in writing articles on bio-ethical topics.
4.) Present and defend a position on a contemporary bio-ethical topic employing the above theories.

DUE DATES
TUESDAY 17 FEB.: CHOICE OF OPPOSING ARTICLES
THURSDAY 5 MARCH: OPPOSING ARTICLES REVIEW
TUESDAY 17 MAR.: BOOK CHOICE
THURSDAY 16 APR.: BOOK REVIEW
THURSDAY 14 MAY: FINAL PAPER DUE (in lieu of final exam)

SCHEDULE OF READINGS*

T 27 JAN.	Syllabus, introduction
R 29 JAN.	Mill, Utilitarianism, Chs. 1- 2, pp. 1-25
T 3 FEB.	Mill, Util., Chs. 3-4, pp. 26-40
R 5 FEB.	Mill, Util., Ch. 5, pp. 41-63
T 10 FEB.	Justice and liver-transplantation, pdf on Blackboard
R 12 FEB.	Kant, Grounding, Section 1, pp. 7-17
T 17 FEB.	Kant, Grounding, Section 2, pp. 19-32 (up to para.424)
	CHOICE OF ARTICLES DUE
R 19 FEB.	Kant, Grounding, Section 2, pp. 32-42 (from para. 424 to para.437)
T 24 FEB.	Justice in the Distribution of Health Care, Mappes, pp. 628-645
R 26 FEB.	Aristotle, N. Ethics, pp. 1-5; 7-16; 18-25
T 3 MAR.	Aristotle, N. Ethics, pp. 99-114, 119-153
R 5 MAR.	Aquinas, Law & Natural Law, pdf, **REVIEW OF ARTICLES DUE**
T 10 MAR.	Mappes, Bioethical Theory and Concepts, pp. 26-27, 40-53
R 12 MAR.	Mappes, Ch. II, Physician/Patient Relationship, 70-71, 90-102
T 17 MAR.	Mappes, Informed Consent, 102-118
	BOOK CHOICE DUE
R 19 MAR.	Mappes, contested patient requests 127-144
T 24 MAR.	**SPRING RECESS**
R 26 MAR.	**SPRING RECESS**
T 31 MAR.	Mappes, Conflicts of interest, 72-76; 144-158
R 2 APR.	Mappes, Nurse/patient/physician Relationships, 170-188
T 7 APR.	Mappes, Patient Confidentiality, 211-221
R 9 APR.	Happy Easter/Happy Passover, no Class
T 14 APR.	Mappes, Experimentation on humans, 266-276
R 16 APR.	Mappes, Experimentation on Animals, 276-289 **BOOK REVIEW DUE**
T 21 APR.	Defining death, 309-319; pdf Council on Bioethics, organ procurement
R 23 APR.	PAS and Euthanasia, 395-399, 414-417, Cavanaugh, *Currently Accepted* pdf
T 28 APR.	PAS and Euthanasia, 401-403, Cavanaugh, *Instability* pdf
R 30 APR.	Mappes, Abortion, 457-479
T 5 MAY	Mappes, Cloning, 565-577
R 7 MAY	Mappes, Embryonic Stem Cells, 493-508; *Dignitas Personae*, pdf selections
T 12 MAY	Mappes, Assisted Reproduction, 521-532; *Dignitas Personae*, pdf selections
R 14 MAY	Conscientious Objection and Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists, pdf
	FINAL PAPER DUE (in lieu of final exam)

*while we will try to hold to this schedule of readings, we may at times depart from it.
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