Lecture Contact Hours: 48-54; Homework Hours: 96-108; Total Student Learning Hours: 144-162

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

PHILOSOPHY 141 –BIOETHICS

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description
In this orientation to biomedical ethics, students will explore ethical dilemmas common in the medical field including but not limited to organ transplantation, use of human beings and animals in research, genetic and reproductive technologies, abortion, euthanasia, and delivering healthcare. By considering how concepts such as justice, autonomy, caring, truth-telling, and resource allocation figure into such ethical dilemmas, the student will become familiar with how ethical decision making takes place in the medical field.

Prerequisite
None

Course Content
Biomedical ethical questions and issues will be examined with respect to major ethical theories. Specifically, the following theories and issues will be analyzed:
1) Utilitarianism
2) Deontology
3) Natural Law Theory
4) Virtue Ethics
5) Feminist Ethics
6) Medical Professional and Patient Relations
7) Paternalism and Patient Autonomy
8) Truth Telling and Confidentiality
9) Informed Consent
10) Human Research
11) Issues of Life and Death
12) Justice and Health Care

Course Objectives
Students will be able to:
1) Identify and discuss major ethical theories in the history of philosophy such as virtue ethics, deontology, utilitarianism, egoism, relativism, care ethics, objectivism, etc.
2) Apply various ethical principles studied in class to common ethical dilemmas in the medical field, i.e. abortion, euthanasia, reproductive technology, genetic choices, and human research.
3) Examine the relationship between patient and medical professional with respect to autonomy, truth-telling, informed consent, privacy, and considerations of social justice.
4) Begin to formulate their own ethical judgments on the basis of theories and dilemmas discussed in class.

Method of Evaluation
A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

1) Exams and quizzes that measure students' abilities to identify the main features of ethical systems in the history of philosophy and apply them to ethical dilemmas which arise in the medical field.
2) Research papers that measure students' abilities to evaluate various ethical theories and their applications to ethical dilemmas as regards their coherence, practicality, and/or legitimacy.
3) Critical reading journals that require students to begin to formulate their own ethical principles on the basis of philosophical reasoning.

Special Materials Required of Student
None

Minimum Instructional Facilities
Smart Classroom

Method of Instruction
Lecture and discussion

Out-of-Class Assignments
1) Writing assignments, including essays
2) Reading assignments

Texts and References
1) Required (representative examples):
   a. Vaughn, Lewis. *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases.* 4th edition, Oxford University Press, NY: 2020.
   b. Beauchamp, Tom L. and James R. Childress. Principles of Biomedical Ethics. 7th Ed., San Diego, CA: Oxford University Press, 2012.
   c. Singer, Peter. The Cambridge Book of Bioethics. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1) Apply principles of major moral theories to problems encountered in contemporary health care analysis related to human beings and bioethical issues.
2) Formulate ethical judgments on the basis of bioethical theories and dilemmas.