

## PHL 321E: Philosophy and Biomedical Ethics

### **Class and Teacher Information:**

- Spring Semester, 2017 University of Montana
- Class meeting: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.
- LA 303
- Mark J. Hanson, Ph.D.
- Office Number: 243-6844
- Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 and by appointment
- Office: Liberal Arts Building Room #152
- [Mark's Email: mark.hanson@umontana.edu](mailto:mark.hanson@umontana.edu)

### **Course Description:**

This three-credit course examines the moral dimensions of the health professions in select issues, including the professional-patient relationship, medical decision-making and caregiving, treatment obligations, decision-making at the end-of-life, assisted suicide, defining health and the goals of medicine, prenatal genetic testing and abortion, and human subjects research. Numerous cases will be used to highlight moral issues.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Students will develop a basic understanding of major traditions and theories of ethics.
2. Students will develop a basic understanding of moral dimensions of health care and medical decision-making generally.
3. Students will learn about the relationships between medical ethics and ethical values in the larger society.
4. The course will advance students' skills in critical thinking and writing in ethics through the consideration of medical ethics issues and cases in class and in a writing assignment.

### **Prerequisites:**

None

### **Requirements:**

1. Mid-term examination, March 9 (100 points)
  2. Ethics case/issue analysis paper, April 18 (50 points)
  3. Quizzes/short assignments TBA (50 points)
  4. Final examination, Tuesday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (100 points)
- Examinations will likely be a combination of a choice among short answer questions and a longer essay and/or case analysis. The final examination will not be comprehensive but may be longer than the mid-term. Exams must be taken at scheduled times unless prior permission of the instructor is obtained, otherwise the exam receives a failing grade.
  - The ethics analysis paper should analyze central arguments of a particular case study or issue and argue your normative position on the central issue(s). This paper can be written in groups of up to three students.
  - Students will be asked to post answers to discussion questions online and occasionally take quizzes or have other short assignments. Please check the course page in Moodle or ask if assignments are due if you are unable to attend a class period.

### **Required Reading:**

- *The Death of Ivan Ilych* is available in the UC Bookstore.
- Other readings for this course are available electronically on the course website.

### **Grading Policy:**

#### Assignments:

Assignments are due in class on or before the date listed in the syllabus. I will take off one half-grade level for each class day an assignment is late (unless you have made a prior agreement with me). Papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be returned ungraded for correction and marked

down half a letter grade. Papers should be typed and double-spaced, with standard margins, roughly five to six pages in length. All outside sources should be cited with a standard and consistent reference style. Papers written in groups will yield the same grade for all co-authors. More details will be given in class.

### Exams:

Exams must be taken at the scheduled time unless prior permission has been obtained from me for an alternate time. The mid-term exam will cover material from the plenary lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions. The format will likely be mixed, possibly including multiple choice, quotation identifications short-answer essays, and/or longer essay questions. The final will **not** be comprehensive, although there may be a longer essay question that requires you to discuss themes from the entire semester. It will cover material since the midterm exam. The last week of class I will hand out a study guide. You must write your exam during the final exam period. Failure to do so without instructor's permission will result in a failing grade for the exam. Final exams can only be rescheduled if the student can demonstrate that he or she has two additional exams scheduled for the same day

### Online posts, Quizzes, and Other Assignments:

Students will be asked to post answers to discussion questions online and occasionally take quizzes or have other short assignments. Please check the course page in Moodle or ask if assignments are due if you are unable to attend a class period.

### Attendance and Participation:

More than unexcused three absences will result in losing any benefit of the doubt on your final grade. Four to five absences will result in one half-grade level reduction; six to seven absences will result in a full grade level reduction (e.g., A to B), and eight or more absences may result in a failing course grade (F). **Late arrivals in class may count as an absence.** (Note: If you have a valid reason for missing several classes, such as illness, disability or other conflicting commitments, you still must speak with the instructor. Documentation may be required.) Regular, active participation may bump borderline grades to a higher level. Participation grades are based on demonstrated willingness to answer questions and contribute comments that reflect a good-faith effort to read, understand, and develop a personal perspective on and critical questions about the readings and lectures.

### Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism:

All work submitted is expected to be the student's own. Any acts of plagiarism or academic misconduct will result in automatic failure of the course, and may result in further academic punishment. If you have any doubts about definitions of plagiarism or academic misconduct, please review the relevant sections of the University Catalog.

### Students with Disabilities:

In accordance with the University of Montana's mission to provide equal educational opportunities for all students, necessary accommodations for students with disabilities will be made whenever possible. If you require accommodations, please provide written information regarding your disability from the Disability Services as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made.

### Classroom Etiquette

- Please arrive on time and do not walk out on classes early or in the middle of discussion without prior permission. Doing otherwise is disrespectful.
- Give the class full attention: no side discussions, sleeping, non-class-related activities, or use of electronic devices. Anything other than full attention will count as an absence.
- Cell phones: Please turn off all cell phones prior to class unless you have informed me that you have a legitimate reason: for example, you are an EMT or a firefighter, parent of a young child, or are expecting an emergency call. If you are expecting a call, please keep the phone on the vibrate mode and step outside to take the call. Each instance of texting in class will count as an absence.

- Laptop and smart phones: The use of laptops and smart phones is not permitted without permission. Laptops used for text reading and/or note-taking must be used in the first two rows of seats.

### Disability Modifications:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification. **If you have a disability, please let me know so we can provide accommodations.**

### **Topics and Reading Assignments:**

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Class Introduction	
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	“What We Talk about When We Talk about Ethics”	
January 31 <sup>st</sup> and February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	“Introduction: Moral Reasoning in the Medical Context”	
February 7 <sup>th</sup> through 9 <sup>th</sup>	“Four Models of the Physician-Patient Relationship”	
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	In-class video: “Dax’s Case” (optional reading: “A Chronicle: Dax’s Case as It Happened,” with commentaries by White and Engelhardt)	
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	“Deciding for Others: Competency”	
February 21 <sup>st</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup>	“The Severely Demented, Minimally Functional Patient”	
February 28 <sup>th</sup> , March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , March 7 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Erring on the Side of Theresa Schiavo”</li> <li>“Human Non-Person: Terri, Bioethics, and Our Future”</li> </ul>	
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mid-term Exam</b>	
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The Death of Ivan Ilych</i>	
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	In-class video: “On Our Own Terms”	
March 20 <sup>th</sup> through March 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
March 28 <sup>th</sup> through March 30 <sup>th</sup>	“Physician-Assisted Suicide: A Tragic View”	
April 4 <sup>th</sup> , April 6 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. Elliott, “Is Ugliness a Disease?”</li> <li>“Anyone for Tennis, At the Age of 150?”</li> <li>“The Case Against Perfection”</li> </ul>	
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	In-class video: “The Burden of Knowledge”	
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Presumptive Primacy of Procreative Liberty”</li> <li>“Disability, Prenatal Testing, and Selective Abortion”</li> </ul>	
April 18 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup>	No assigned reading	<b>Case Analysis/Issue Paper Due April 18</b>

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	“A Defense of Abortion”	
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	In-class video: “Susceptible to Kindness”	
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Of Mice but Not Men”</li> <li>• “A Response to a Purported Ethical Difficulty with Randomized Clinical Trials”</li> </ul>	
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Course conclusion and evaluation	
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Final Exam Wednesday, May 10, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</b>	