

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Humanities
Revision Date: 01-13-20

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: PHIL2130
Course Title: Bioethics
Prerequisite(s): A grade of "C": or higher in ENGL1010.
Catalog Description: A philosophical study of moral problems in the health care industry. Exploration of issues that include the allocation of scarce medical resources, patients' rights, biomedical research and transplants, abortion, maternal-fetal conflict, death and dying, as well as socialized medicine and the right to health care.
Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Explore traditional and contemporary bioethical issues and examine these issues within the health care context (health care providers and patients, and the institutions, communities, and social contexts in which they interact).
- B. Provide practice in critical thinking/analysis skills.
- C. Broaden knowledge base regarding moral and ethical issues pertaining to health care.
- D. Increase awareness of the social relevance of ethics in the health care field.
- E. Develop new ideas, clearer insights, and deeper thinking through reading and discussion.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Define vocabulary pertaining bioethical issues.
 - 2. Identify ethical and moral issues.
 - 3. Collect information and ideas.
 - 4. Synthesize information.
 - 5. Appraise, assess and/or critique bioethical issues using specific standards and criteria.
 - 6. Analyze case problems and communicate results or propose a solution based on careful assessment of given criteria.
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes
 - 1. GELO #2: Written Communication
 - Outcome: Comprehend, analyze, and evaluate a given text.
 - Outcome: Develop a focused thesis statement and write with a clear purpose, using relevant examples, claims, and evidence.
 - 2. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
 - Outcome: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, media, speech, or artistic presentations.
 - Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.
 - 3. GELO #4: Global Awareness and Citizenship
 - Outcome: Identify and evaluate different theoretical or philosophical perspectives and their relevance to ethical decision-making.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

A. Moral Foundations

1. Moral Norms: Normative and Nonnormative Ethics; The Common Morality as Universal Morality; Particular Moralities as Nonuniversal; Moral Dilemmas; A Framework of Moral Norms; Conflicting Moral Norms
2. Moral Character: Moral Virtues; Virtues in Professional Roles; The Virtue of Caring; Five Focal Virtues; Moral Virtues and Action Guides; Moral Ideals; Moral Excellence.
3. Moral Status: The Problem of Moral Status; Theories of Moral Status; From Theories to Practical Guidelines; Vulnerable Populations.

B. Moral Principles

1. Respect for Autonomy: The Nature of Autonomy; The Capacity for Autonomous Choice; The Meaning and Justification of Informed Consent; Disclosure; Understanding; Voluntariness; A Framework of Standards for Surrogate Decision Making.
2. Nonmaleficence: The Concept of Nonmaleficence; Distinctions and Rules Governing Nontreatment; Optional Treatments and Obligatory Treatments; Killing and Letting Die; The Justification of Intentionally Arranged Deaths; Protecting Incompetent Patients.
3. Beneficence: The Concept of Beneficence; Obligatory Beneficence and Ideal Beneficence; Paternalism: Conflicts Between Beneficence and Autonomy; Balancing Benefits, Costs, and Risks; The Value and Quality of Life;
4. Justice: The Concept of Justice; Theories of Justice; Fair Opportunity and Unfair Discrimination; Vulnerability and Exploitation; National Health Policy and the Right to Health Care; Global Health Policy and the Right to Health; Allocating, Setting Priorities, and Rationing
5. Professional-Patient Relationships: Veracity; Privacy; Confidentiality; Fidelity; The Dual Roles of Clinician and Investigator.

C. Theory and Method

1. Moral Theories: Criteria for Theory Construction; Utilitarianism; Kantianism; Rights Theory; Communitarianism; Convergence of Theories
2. Method and Moral Justification: Justification in Ethics; Top-Down Models: Theory and Application; Bottom-Up Models: Cases and Analogy; An Integrated Model Using Reflective Equilibrium; Common-Morality Theory

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. Required Text(s):

1. Vaughn, Lewis. *Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases*, 4th Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. ISBN-13: 978-0190903268.

B. Other resources:

1. Hand-outs supplied by instructor or Internet links for appropriate philosophy websites.
2. Outside reading/research required.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

A. Methods of presentation typically include a combination of the following:

1. Lectures
2. Small and large discussion groups
3. Collaborative projects
4. Research
5. Peer response
6. Student presentations on assigned topics.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:

- 1.** Class and group participation
- 2.** Testing
- 3.** Projects as assigned.

The instructor will distribute and discuss grading policies with students at the beginning of the quarter.

B. SCC GRADING SCALE

A+	95-100	C+	75-79	F	59 or less
A	90-94	C	70-74		
B+	85-89	D+	65-69		
B	80-84	D	60-64		

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. General requirements

- 1.** In order to receive a passing grade for PHIL2130, students must complete all work assigned by their instructor and attend class.
- 2.** Content, assessment and schedule determined by instructor.