Syllabus, Fall 2007, Biomedical Ethics

IDH 3005 (84278) U09 Wed 11:00-13:45
3rd Year Honors: Values and Authority, “Biomedical Ethics,” Web10 Assisted
Mary Lou Pfeiffer, DM 233 Office hours Tuesday 9:30-10:45 or by appointment
305-384-4100

Texts:

Two additional books will be added for the spring semester; we will continue to use the texts from the fall. The experimental required reading for 3rd year Honors will be included at the end of the fall semester, excerpts from Dante’s *The Divine Comedy*.

This two-semester course is designed to enhance the student’s knowledge of philosophical issues and ethical dilemmas that confront professionals in science, medicine and the allied healthcare fields. All assignments (essays and papers), quizzes, exams, discussion topics are posted online and will be submitted through Web10. Each student needs to verify her/his computer browser is compatible for Web 10. A web tutorial is available to those unfamiliar with Web10 that has replaced WebCT; note, Web 10 is very user friendly!

The course will be divided into four modules for the fall. Module 1 (weeks 1-6) focuses on the history and theories of moral philosophy that led to the study of ethics and its evolution into biomedical ethics. Examination of the laws that govern healthcare and medical practices follow the introductory lectures. The laws deal with how we live and treat the human body in science and medicine. Weeks 7-9 comprise Module 2 that deals with “The New Medicine,” the incorporation of global practices that challenge Western conventional medicine. These practices call into play alternative methods of treating the body. AIDS is the focus of Module 3, weeks 10-12. The final module for the fall contains the discussions from Dante. Grades are based on 4 quizzes (20%), 4 essays (30%), a team project: Dante (20%), and a short (1,500 word) paper (20%), online discussion participation, (10%).

In the spring semester we address individual ethical issues that face society: genetics (the human genome project), medical research on humans and animals, reproductive rights and technologies: birth control-abortion, stem cells, allocation of medical resources, rights of disabled and mentally ill persons, and euthanasia: death, dying and quality of life issues. There are two major assignments for spring: a debate and a paper. The class, divided into teams, will hold debates (pro/con) on the above issues (40%) and a 2000-2500-word research paper. Quizzes are integrated into the ethical issues (20%).
Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

**Misconduct includes:**
- **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not.
- **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

**Week 1 Aug 29**
**Module #1**  
**Assignment for week 1:**  
Glannon, Preface (xi-xii) Ch 1 (pp1-22); Fremgen, Preface (ix-x), Letter to the Student (xi-xii), How to Interpret Case Citations (xiii-xiv), Ch 1 (pp1-21), consider Points to Ponder (p17), complete Discussion Questions (pp17-18), Practice Exercises/Multiple choice (pp18-20), read through case study (p21); Rachels, Preface (v), Part I-Ch 1-9 (pp 1-86)

**Lecture:**  
Introduction to the course; Philosophy: history and theories, glossary

**Assignment for week 2:**  
Fremgen, Ch 2-3, The Legal System (pp25-48)

**Week 2 Sept 5**  
Discuss ethics, morality and the move into bioethics; case studies; The Legal System; Video presentation

**Assignment for week 3:**  
Fremgen Ch 3-4 (pp26-85), complete Practice Exercise and Multiple Choice (pp45-47) and (81-83)

**Week 3 Sept 12**  
Discuss legal issues for physicians and healthcare workers; **Quiz #1**

**Assignment for week 4:**  
Glannon, Ch 2 (pp23-45); Fremgen Ch 5-6 (pp89-142)

**Week 4 Sept 19**  
Liability, Malpractice, **select topic for Essay #1 due Oct. 17; participate in online discussion for Week 4**

**Assignment for week 5:**  
Fremgen, Ch 7-8-9 (pp162-203)

**Week 5 Sept 27**  
Public Health, Federal Regulations in Medicine, Anti-Trust Laws, Medical Records;

**Assignment for week 6:**  
Fremgen, Ch10- (pp204-223)

**Week 6 Oct 3**  
HIPPA; guest speaker for week 6 or possibly week 7; **Quiz #2; select topic for Essay #2 due Oct. 24; participate in online discussion for Week 6**
Assignment for week 7: Read PDF: “Reforming the American Medical System” online in course content

Week 7 Oct 10 Module #2 “The New Medicine” DVD, 114 minutes (Essay #1 due today) select topic for paper due Dec. 5

Week 8 Oct 17 Discussion of “The New Medicine,” begin DVD “Remaking American Medicine.”


Week 9 Oct 24 Video segment: MSNBC: Chris Hansen’s Investigation “Inside the world of counterfeit drugs”, access through http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13099555/ or http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12319584/ In class discussion; (Essay #2 due today); select topic for Essay #3; participate in online discussion for Week 9

Assignment for weeks 10-11 Read PDF “Preventing the Global Spread of AIDS” in course content

Week 10 Oct 31 Quiz #3, Begin Module 3 on Aids, discussion of Sontag and “Preventing the Global Spread…” Begin DVD “The Age of Aids”

Week 11 Nov 7 Complete DVD: “The Age of AIDS” Participate in online discussion for Week 11

Assignment for weeks 12-13: Dante, *The Divine Comedy*, groups assigned for Dante discussion; select topic for Essay #4

Week 12 Nov 14 Aids continued, Quiz #3 (Essay #3 due today) Guest speaker

Week 13 Nov 21 Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14 Nov 28 Dante presentations (Essay #4 due today)

Week 15 Dec 5: Last class, Dante presentations; short paper due today