

Texas A&M University – Texarkana
HSCI 347 Foundations of Healthcare Ethics
Spring, 2013

Course Number: HSCI 347

Course Title: Foundations of Healthcare Ethics

Course Credit: 3 Semester Credit Hours

Faculty: Regina C. Aune, PhD, RN, FAAN

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 8 am – 12 noon; other hours by appointment

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Course Description: This course introduces undergraduate students to health care ethics. It includes the philosophical underpinnings of health care ethics, examples of health care dilemmas, and examples of legal documents that are important during health care delivery. Some of the topics discussed include, but are not limited to, euthanasia (active and passive), hospice, abortion, patient rights, the refusal of chemotherapy, and medical use of marijuana for adjunctive cancer pain treatment.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the evolution of the ethical aspects of healthcare in light of the historical development of ethics as a branch of philosophy;
2. Distinguish among the various ethical principles and legal aspects that impinge upon healthcare delivery;
3. Critique various legal precedents that impact ethical issues confronted by healthcare professionals in the delivery of care;
4. Analyze the various ethical frameworks as they apply to healthcare;
5. Critique various ethical systems used by the biomedical community to deal with healthcare dilemmas.

A&M-Texarkana Email Address: Upon application to Texas A&M University- Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Drop Policy: To drop this course after the census date (see [semester calendar](#)), a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website <http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html>) or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must

be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Required Textbooks:

Aristotle, trans. Ross, D. (). *The Nichomachean Ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199213610.

Pellegrino, E.D., Veatch, R.M., & Langan, J.P. (Ed.) (1991). *Ethics, trust, and the professions: Philosophical and cultural aspects*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press. ISBN: 0878405135.

Veatch, R.M., Haddad, A.M., & English, D.C. (2010). *Case studies in biomedical ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780195309720.

Recommended Books:

Aiken, T.D. (2004). *Legal, ethical, and political issues in nursing*. New Orleans, LA: Aiken Development Group.

Beckwith, F.J. (2007). *Defending life*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Benjamin, M. & Curtis, J. (1992). *Ethics in nursing (3rd ed.)*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Bonhoeffer, D. (1949). *Ethics*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.

Budziszewski, J. (2011). *What we can't not know*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

Budziszewski, J. (1997). *Written on the heart*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press.

Butts, J. B. & Rich, K. L. (2008). *Nursing ethics (2nd ed.)*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Catalano, J.T. (1995). *Ethical and legal aspects of nursing (2nd ed.)*. North Wales, PA: Springhouse Publishing Company.

Curtin, L. & Flaherty, M.J. (1982). *Nursing ethics: Theories and pragmatics*. Bowie, MD: Robert J. Brady Company.

Dimond, B. (2008). *Legal aspects of nursing (5th ed.)*. London: Longman Publishing Company.

Fremgen, B.F. (2012). *Medical law and ethics (4th ed.)* New York: Pearson.

Hasson, K.S. (2012). *The right to be wrong*. New York: Image.

Kapp, M.B. (2009). *Legal aspects of elder care*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Metaxas, E. (2010). *Bonhoeffer*. Dallas: Thomas Nelson.

Mitchell, C.B., Pellegrino, E.D., Mazzarella, P. & Corsi, P. (1993). *Biotechnology and the human good*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Pellegrino, E.D. & Thomasma, D. C. (1981). *A philosophical basis of medical practice: Toward a philosophy and ethic of the healing professions*. USA: Oxford University Press.

Pellegrino, E.D. & Thomasma, D.C. (1997). *Helping and healing: Religious commitment in health care*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Pellegrino, E.D. & Faden, A.I. (2001). *Jewish and Catholic bioethics: An ecumenical dialogue*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Pellegrino, E.D. & Thomasma, D.C. (1996). *The Christian virtues in medical practice*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Pellegrino, E.D., Mazzarella, P., & Corsi, P. (1993). *Transcultural dimensions in medical ethics*. Hagerstown, MD: University Publishing Group.

Prograis, L.J. & Pellegrino, E.D. (2007). *African American bioethics: Culture, race and identity*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Veatch, R.M. & Fry, S.T. (1987). *Case studies in nursing ethics*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company.

Westrick, S. J. & Dempski, K. (2009). *Essentials of nursing law and ethics*. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Recommended Journals:

American Journal of Law and Medicine

BMC Medical Ethics

Ethics

Ethics in Science and Medicine

Ethics, Law, and Aging Review

Ethics and Medicine

Ethics and Medics

Human Reproduction and Genetic Ethics

International Journal of Ethics

International Journal of Legal Medicine

Issues in Law and Medicine

Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics

Journal of Ethics, Law, and Aging

Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine

Journal of Health Administration Ethics

Journal of Legal Medicine

Journal of Medicine and Law

Journal of Medical Ethics

Journal of Medical Ethics and History of Medicine

Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal

Law, Medicine and Health Care
Legal Medicine
Legal Nurse Consulting Ezine
Medicine and Law Weekly
Nursing Ethics
Online Journal of Health Ethics
Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine
Religion and Ethics Newsweekly
Research Ethics Review
The Hastings Center Report
The Internet Journal of Law, Healthcare and Ethics
The Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics

Online Sources:

Ethics and Public Policy Center; www.eppc.org
The Witherspoon Institute; www.publicdiscourse.com

Teaching Strategies/Learning Experiences:

The course objectives can be met through a combination of active involvement in online discussions, reading assigned articles, thinking critically about the topics discussed, and reflecting on them through writing on specific topics.

The teaching methods employed in this course include online presentations, independent study, required readings and directed discussions. Achievement of course objectives will be evaluated through written assignments and online participation.

The student is responsible for doing all assignments and participating actively in all discussions and learning activities.

Evaluation: The grading scale used in this course is as follows:

A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89
C = 70 – 79
D = 60 – 69
F = 59 or below

Weighted Assignments: Evaluation of performance in the course is based on the specified course requirements as listed below:

Assignment:	Percentage of Grade:
Discussion participation	20%
Book review/critique	30%
Journal article critique #1	25%
Journal article critique #2	25%
TOTAL:	100%

N.B. All assignments are to be completed and turned in by the due date. Papers turned in late will not be graded.

Criteria for Class Participation:

Each student is to be prepared for class discussion. That means you are to be knowledgeable of

the topics being discussed and you are to contribute to the discussion. Your discussions should evidence a critical analysis of the literature, thoughtful deliberation, comparisons with other evidence, synthesis of applications to your own experience or practice setting, and otherwise evidence knowledge of the discussion topic.

Criteria for Written Assignments:

All written assignments must be prepared on a computer using 12-point font and in correct APA format as indicated in the 2010 *APA Manual*. All written assignments must have a title page. All papers will be graded according to the specific criteria given for each assignment. Due dates for each assignment are indicated on the class schedule in the syllabus. Prior to the submission of written assignments, consultation with the instructor regarding clarification of expectations and answering general questions will be provided on an appointment basis.

All papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word format or pdf.

[If you are not sure what this means, please consult with the professor.]

Book Review/Critique:

This assignment is a 5 – 7 page paper (exclusive of title page and references) in which you review and critique one of the four books listed below:

1. Beckwith, F.J. (2007). *Defending life*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
2. Bonhoeffer, D. (1949). *Ethics*. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.
3. Hasson, K.S. (2012). *The right to be wrong*. New York: Image.
4. Metaxas, E. (2010). *Bonhoeffer*. Dallas: Thomas Nelson. (Note: This book is a biography; however, you will be able to discern Bonhoeffer's ethical stance and therefore will be able to write your review/critique according to the criteria listed below for this assignment.)

In this paper, you must:

1. Summarize and give a synopsis of the book;
2. Discuss how the author views the nature of ethics as a discipline; (N.B. if you review Metaxas' book, give Bonhoeffer's view of the nature of ethics)
3. Critique the author's viewpoint on ethics; (N.B. same comment as above in #2)
4. Compare the author's viewpoint on ethics with your viewpoint; (N.B. same comment as #2 above)
5. Identify how reading and reviewing this book has enhanced your understanding of ethics as a discipline that has relevance to healthcare

Journal Article Critiques:

These two assignments are 2-3 page papers critiquing journal articles discussing a particular aspect of ethical principles that apply to healthcare and an ethical issue in healthcare. For the first critique, select an article from one of the journals listed on the course syllabus that discusses the issue of justice and the allocation of health resources. For the second article critique, select an article from one of the journals listed on the course syllabus that discusses a specific issue in healthcare such as abortion, euthanasia, organ donation, etc. use the following criteria to write your paper:

1. Discuss the nature of the issue you are discussing in the paper;
2. Summarize the article in terms of the author(s)' main points;
3. Critique the points in light of the principles discussed in online discussions and presentations;

4. State your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the author(s)' main premise (support your reasons from the texts or other references);
5. State your concluding remarks about the usefulness of the particular article to you as a healthcare professional (or potential healthcare professional).

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary actions." For additional information see the university policy manual.

Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

Resources Needed: The student will need access to a computer and printer at home or at school or both home/school.

Student Technical Assistance:

- Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found at this link: <http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37>
- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: <http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php>
- Blackboard Helpdesk contacts:

Office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p

Julia Allen (main contact) 903-223-3154 julia.allen@tamut.edu

Frank Miller (alternate) 903-223-3156 frank.miller@tamut.edu

Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu

Class Participation:

Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the FIRST CLASS DAY by logging on and completing assignments according to the COURSE MAP. Failure to submit online assignments between the first day of classes and the "university census date" (according to the university schedule) will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DROP from the course.

Technical Requirements:

Minimum System Requirements

The following computer system requirements are recommended for an online course:

OS: Windows 2000/XP/Vista; Mac OSX 10.2 & above

RAM: 256 MB, Processor: 2.0 GHz, Free space on HDD: 500MB **Internet**

Connection: (Broadband/DSL preferred), Dial Up 56k minimum **Browser:** Internet Explorer 6 or 7, Mozilla Firefox 2.0, Safari 1.0

Java: Version 6 Update 11 or later

Sound card and speakers

Software Requirements:

Pop-up Blockers

All pop-up blockers installed on your computer must be set to allow pop-ups from Blackboard

Java Runtime Environment

You must have the Java Runtime Environment installed. This is a free plug-in for your browser that can be obtained by going to <http://www.java.com>

Additional Plug-ins

You may need additional software based on the content that your instructor posts in their course. Commonly needed applications are:

Microsoft Office 2007/2003/XP Suite/Works (not free software)

Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download)

Windows Media Player (free download) **Real**

Time Media Player (free download) **Quick**

Time Media Player (free download)

Macromedia/Adobe Flash (free download)

Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave (free download)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (20 Jan 2013)	Introduction to ethics; philosophical foundations	READ: Aristotle, <i>The Nichomachean Ethics</i> and Pellegrino et.al. <i>Ethics, trust, and the professions: Philosophical and cultural aspects</i> . (Complete the reading of these books by Week 4 – 10 February)
Week 2 (27 Jan 2013)	Continuation of introduction to ethics	Continue readings
Week 3 (3 Feb 2013)	Continuation of introduction to ethics	Continue readings
Week 4 (10 Feb 2013)	Legal and ethical aspects of issues in contemporary healthcare	READ: Choose a book or journal from the list and select an article dealing with the legal aspects of a healthcare ethical issue (e.g., euthanasia). Post the article and your discussion of it on the Discussion Board. READ: Veatch et.al., Chapters 1 – 9.

Week 5 (17 Feb 2013)	Legal aspects of ethical issues in contemporary healthcare continued	
Week 6 (24 Feb 2013)	Ethical issues at the beginning of life: abortion, contraception, surrogacy, genetic counseling, artificial insemination, in-vitro fertilization, contraception, sterilization	READ: Veatch, et.al., Chapters 10 – 11
Week 7 (3 Mar 2013)	Ethical issues at the beginning of life continued	READ: Articles posted on the Discussion Board; post your critiques of the articles on the Discussion Board
Week 8 (10 Mar 2013)	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9 (17 Mar 2013)	Ethical issues at the beginning of life continued	READ: Articles posted on the Discussion Board; post your critiques of the articles on the Discussion Board; DUE: Book review/critique due at midnight, 24 March
Week 10 (24 Mar 2013)	Ethical issues at the end of life: organ transplantation, nutrition and hydration, definition(s) of death, euthanasia, experimentation on human subjects	READ: Veatch, et.al., Chapters 14, 16, 18
Week 11 (31 Mar 2013)	Ethical issues at the end of life continued	READ: Articles posted on the Discussion Board; post your critiques of the articles on the Discussion Board
Week 12 (7 Apr 2013)	Ethical issues at the end of life continued	READ: Articles posted on the Discussion Board; post your critiques of the articles on the Discussion Board DUE: Journal article critique #1 due at midnight 14 April
Week 13 (14 Apr 2013)	Other critical issues in the ethics of healthcare: health insurance, rationing of healthcare, consent to and refusal of treatment, confidentiality,	READ: Veatch, et.al., Chapters 12, 13, 15, 17

mental health issues

Week 14
(21 Apr 2013)

Other critical issues in the ethics of
healthcare continued

READ: Articles posted on the
Discussion Board; post your
critiques of the articles on
the Discussion Board

Week 15
(28 Apr 2013)

Other critical issues in the ethics of
healthcare continued

Week 16
(5 May 2013)

Summary Discussion of the course

**DUE: Journal article critique
#2 due at midnight 12 May**