

# Syllabus Medical Ethics UCF Fall 2018

## Instructors Contact

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## Course Information

Course Name: Medical Ethics

Course ID & Section: PHI 5634 0W61

Credit Hours: 3

Semester/Year: Fall 2018

Location: Online Course

**University course catalog description:** PR: Graduate standing or C.I. Ethics for practitioners of clinical medicine, health care delivery and medical research. Fall

**Course Description:** This course aims at critically introducing Medical Ethics as the philosophical discipline that investigates morality in both its theoretical and practical aspects in relation to human life and the biomedical sciences.

It is an inquiry-based, student-centered course, designed to support both the development of ethics-related skills - *ethical sensitivity*, *moral reasoning* and *moral deliberation* - and research development, applied to medical ethics.

The course is divided in 4 Modules as follows:

**Module 1.** *Introduction to Medical Ethics. The Value of a Good Life - Value theory in Medical Ethics*

In Value Theory we address the problem of finding out what a life worth living may be (what is a “good life”?). We shall discuss the value of a good life and the value of health through the exploration of different theories: happiness, desire-satisfaction theories, and its applications to medical ethics and medical care. We shall also introduce a reflection on “moral environments” and social norms, and their role for the self-determination of individuals and their good life.

Medical Ethics Themes: Patient self-determination in health care, internal and external constraints for patient decision-making. The modern emergence of medical ethics after WWII.

**Module 2. *Medical Ethics & Normative Ethics I***

In the study of Normative Ethics I we address the theories of right conduct towards others. For doing so, we discuss normative arguments in the debate between morality and religion, natural law, as well as psychological and ethical egoism, and its relations to medical ethics.

Medical Ethics themes: Stem cell research, Reproduction & Contraception, Eugenics, Access to healthcare.

**Module 3. Medical Ethics & Normative Ethics II:** In the study of Normative Ethics II we address the theories of right conduct towards others in the context of consequence and duty in medical ethics.

Medical Ethics themes: Trolley cases/Transplantation ethics, Vaccination ethics

**Module 4. Medical Ethics, Normative Ethics III & Metaethics:** In the study of Normative Ethics II we will address the theories of ethics in relation to the social contract and virtue theory extended to the medical domain. In the study of Metaethics we consider the status and nature of morality itself.

Medical Ethics themes: Patient rights, Implicit bias in medicine, Feminist ethics/Care Ethics, Public Health Ethics, Environmental Ethics & Green hospital, Animal ethics & biomedical research

**Course Objectives**

Students shall:

1. Identify ethics arguments in the context of value theory, normative theory, and metaethics as applied to the medical domain;
2. Explore value theory by critically considering the varieties of “good life” approaches and its relations to ethics at large;
3. Explore the debate on the nature of morality in metaethics and its consequences in medical ethics;
4. Become familiar with normative theories of ethical conduct such as consequentialism, deontology, virtue-theory, feminist ethics, social contract theory and subsequently be able to consider the application of these theories to reflect upon contemporary moral problems in medical ethics.
5. Develop research topic in medical ethics informed by both theoretical and practical dimensions thereof.

## **Required Text:**

**Auxiliary:** Landau, Russ Shafer. *The fundamentals of ethics*. Third edition. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Further texts shall be given in the homepage

## **Supplemental Texts**

See "Further Reading" page

Course Requirements

Junior standing and C.I.

## **Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit**

If you believe you will need to lose assignments due to disease and/or an emergency, please contact the instructor for discussion of alternatives.

## **Evaluation and Grading**

### **Description of the assessments:**

**Self-paced quizzes:** those are activities to help you master the content and be clear about your basic level of interpretation of the readings. You can re-take as much as you like the quizzes. Only the final, highest grade will be recorded.

**Discussion posts:** Every week you are required to write a post, provide a question, or a reflection, and thoughtfully reply to the posts of others, as well as to the final presentation of your colleagues.

**Conferences:** By the end of every module, there will be an online conference, with presentation of an essay (max. 2 pages) you will prepare for the occasion, with research investigation/bibliographical (with library research support, Prof. Gause). You will receive peer and instructor feedback. This activity will help to build your reflection and resources for your final project.

**Essay revisions:** You will have the opportunity to revise any suggestions or aspects of your essays for regrading, with the feedback given.

**Final Project & Powerpoint presentation:** By the end of the course, all students will present a final project (research and reflective) and a quick powerpoint for the group. Academically, it is designed to support each graduate student participant for the development of an ethics-related final paper that may overall contribute or complement to one's graduate research project, and possibly contribute for a conference or journal submission.

## **Letter Grade**

Points

A 93 – 100 points

A- 90 – 92 points

B+ 87 – 89 points

B 83 – 86 points

B- 80 – 82 points

C+ 77 – 79 points

C 73 – 76 points

C- 70 – 72 points

D+ 67 – 69 points

D 63 – 66 points

D- 60 – 62 points

F 59 and below

## **Assignment Grading**

Percentage of Grade

Assignment 1: Self-Paced Quizzes 5%

Assignment 3: Discussion Posts 10%

Assignment 3: Conferences (4) 20%

Assignment 4: Essay reviews 10%

Assignment 5: Final Project & Powerpoint presentation 60%

Total 100%

## **Attendance Policy**

This is an online course, thus the expectation is that you be present online by timely participating in the learning activities of the course.

## **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course)

and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

### **Accessibility Statement**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must connect with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

### **Copyright**

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### **Third-Party Software and FERPA**

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.