

**Department:** Philosophy

**Course No:** 175

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** Ethical Issues in Health Care

**Contact:** Donald Baxter

**Content Area:** CA1-Arts and Humanities

**Catalog Copy:** PHIL 175. Ethical Issues in Health Care Either Semester. Three Credits. Anderson Theories of ethics, with specific application to ethical issues in modern health care.

**Course Information:** a. and c. This course explores issues in biomedical ethics. Students are given background in ethical theory which is then applied to such topics as: the relationship between health care providers, patients and insurers; issues concerning the beginning of life (e.g. assisted reproduction techniques, surrogates, cloning, abortion); issues concerning the end of life (e.g. physician-assisted suicide); genetic research; justice and health care policies. The goal is to make students aware of the ethical implications of current and proposed biomedical practices.

b. Students are asked to make entries in a journal each week reacting to the readings assigned, class discussions and cases presented. The journal is collected 4 times during the semester. Students are also required to write a 7-10 page research paper on the biomedical ethical issue of their choice. There is an essay final exam, with questions given out in advance.

**Meets Goals of Gen Ed:** This course satisfies five of the goals of general education: 1. Students will learn to be more articulate through class discussion, keeping a journal, doing a substantial research paper, and preparing for the final exam. 2. In studying a wide range of ethical theories and biomedical ethical issues they will acquire intellectual breadth and versatility. 3. In having to assess the positions of authors having conflicting viewpoints, they will need to make critical judgements.

They will learn how to do so and support their positions. 4. Since the entire course is concerned with ethical issues, they will acquire moral sensitivity. 5. All the issues we will be concerned with are current ones, ones that are often in the news, so students will acquire awareness of their era and society.

**CA1 Criteria:** 1. Since the issues we discuss all involve human behavior and students will be given background in biomedical areas such as assisted reproductive techniques and genetic research, which they will have to assess from an ethical perspective, they will be investigating and critically analyzing human experience. 2. The course is centered around the branch of philosophy concerned with ethical theories. In the last section of the course, which concerns justice and health care, there is also a discussion of political theory.