GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

PHILOSOPHY 141 – BIOETHICS

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

PHIL 141 Bioethics 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

This course introduces students to the range of issues that define bioethics, the fundamental moral issues that arise in medicine, health, and biotechnology. These philosophical issues involve critical dilemmas at the intersections of law, society culture, public policy, religion, and economics.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Differentiate between ethical questions and non-moral questions.

b. Summarize and analyze arguments for a particular ethical conclusion.

c. Identify ethical issues when they arise in the context of healthcare and biotechnology.

d. Form and defend a well-supported position on issues in bioethics.

e. See the relevance of philosophy to the life sciences and social policy.

f. Identify how very general concepts such as “person” and “death” are used.

g. Understand the meanings of moral terms, such as “good,” “right,” and “duty.”

h. Distinguish between moral and non-moral issues; that is, they will be able to understand the difference between personal values and social ethics.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom with multi-media technology.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None.

7. Course Content

a. Introduction to ethics and bioethics.

b. The nature of value statements an d how they differ from no-value statements.

c. Patient autonomy and informed consent.

d. Human subject research.

e. The concept of personhood.

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7. Course Content (continued)

f. Abortion and rights.

g. The end of life: euthanasia.

h. Genetic technology.

i. Just health care.

j. The environmental impact.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture and discussion.

b. Field experiences.

c. Multimedia presentations.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. A mid-term and final exam, each to include both objective and essay components.

b. Formal papers, written reports, critiques, reflection papers and research assignments on topics such as the concept of a person, the right to die, the three philosophical positions on abortion.

c. Quizzes.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Reading assignments from texts and supplementary materials.

b. Writing assignments that take the form of in-depth formal papers and shorter reports, refection papers, critiques such as health care and equality, genetic engineering, euthanasia.

c. Students may be asked to experience actual health care environments and situations.

11. Texts

a. Required text(s) to be selected from:

(1) Beauchamp, Tom L. and James R. Childress*. Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. 7th Ed., San Diego, CA: Oxford University Press, 2012.

(2) Singer, Peter. *The Cambridge Book of Bioethics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

(3) Vaughn, Lewis. *Bioethics: Principles, Issues and Ca*ses. 2nd edition, San Diego, CA: Oxford University Press, 2012.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

a. Apply principles of major moral theories to problems encountered in contemporary health care analysis related to human beings and bioethical issues.

b. Demonstrate understanding of bioethical issues through reading and writing assignments**.**

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 8, 2015