

Ethics in Healthcare: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (HHV 504)
Spring 2009

Mondays 3:30-5:30 PM
March 30 – June 8, 2009
994 Armour Academic Center
Rush University Medical Center

Instructor:

Clayton L. Thomason, J.D., M.Div.
Bishop Anderson Professor of Religion & Ethics in Medicine
Chairman, Department of Religion, Health & Human Values
Acting Director, Program in Healthcare Ethics

Office: 1013 Armour Academic Center
Office Hours: by appointment
Phone: 312-942-5826
E-mail: clayton_thomason@rush.edu

SYLLABUS

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course will introduce students to foundational theories of healthcare ethics, ethical decision-making frameworks, legal and professional standards in healthcare ethics, institutional and interprofessional ethical constraints, and major ethical issues facing health care professionals. Students will have the opportunity for case analysis and discussion with students from other professions with which they will some day be practicing. Course content will include lecture, on-line content, case analysis, and discussion. Open to students in College of Health Sciences programs. (2 Credits)

Course Objectives:

(Domains: Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation)

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Describe and appreciate the value of understanding the history and evolution of health care ethics in the American culture.
- Demonstrate the understanding of the various philosophical foundations for health care ethics.
- Identify and critically analyze ethical issues in health care.
- Critique various decision making frameworks and formulate one based on ethical philosophical foundations.
- Discuss the application of legal and ethical concepts and principals in his/her capacity and responsibility as a health care professional.
- Recognize the integrative role of organizational ethics in health care facilities.

- Analyze institutional controls and constraints for ethical accountability to self, clients and the public.
- Apply the philosophical foundations in health care ethics to identify, discuss, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate specific ethical issues faced by health care professionals in their respective areas.
- Synthesize specific ethical issues faced by health care administrators now and in the future.

Course Expectations:

1. Fulfillment of course requirements, especially **careful reading of assigned readings and preparation for class discussion**.
2. **Attendance and participation** are expected, as class discussion will form a central core of the course.
 - a. Once in the course, each student will be expected to post on the WebCT site a **news item** relevant to the course material. This may be a newspaper story, Internet link, or other source that describes a case or situation illustrative of the ethical issues discussed in the course.
 - b. Quality (not necessarily quantity!) of participation in class and on-line discussions will be evaluated for **15% of the final grade**.
 - c. More than **two absences** will require remediation, to be arranged with instructor.
3. **Evaluation**
 - a. Participation in class and on-line discussions = 15% of final grade
 - b. Mid-term Exam = 30%
 - c. Final Exam = 55%
4. **Required Text:** Ruth Purtilo, Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions (4th ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders, 2005. (ISBN#978-0-7216-0243-1) Supplemented with class handouts.

COURSE SCHEDULE 2009

March 30: An Introduction to the Course: the Language and Logic of Bioethics.
Reading: Purtilo, Ch. 1-2 (pp. 3-44)

April 6: Theories of Ethics and Practical Approaches.
Reading: Purtilo, Ch. 3-4 (pp. 46-91)

April 13: Ethics in Student and Professional Life

Reading: Purtilo, Ch 5-6 (pp. 95-126)

April 20: Organizational Ethics

Reading: Purtilo, Ch 7-8 (pp. 129-165)

April 27: Patient Relationships: Confidentiality & Truth-Telling

Reading: Purtilo, Ch. 9-10 (pp. 171-206)

Midterm Exam: Online, due by **May 1**.

May 4: Patient Relationships: Informed Consent

Reading: Purtilo, Ch. 11 (pp. 208-230)

May 11: Chronic & Long-Term Care

Reading: Purtilo, Ch. 12 (pp. 235-252)

May 18: End of Life Care

Reading: Purtilo, Ch. 13 (pp. 255-280)

May 25: Memorial Day Holiday – no class

June 1: Distributive & Compensatory Justice: Claims for Health Care

Reading: Purtilo, Ch. 14-15 (pp. 287-324)

June 8: Course Summary and Exam Review

Reading: Purtilo, Ch. 16 (pp. 327-338)

Final Exam: Online, due by **June 12**.

For information or to request an accommodation, please contact your college representative listed below. Please do not make requests for accommodation to individual faculty members, lecturers or course directors.

**RUSH UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

In keeping with its goal to promote diversity among its student population, Rush University is committed to attracting and educating students who will help to make the population of health care professionals representative of the national population, including students with disabilities. In addition, Rush University wishes to insure that access to its facilities, programs and services are available to students with disabilities. The University provides reasonable accommodations to all students on a nondiscriminatory basis consistent with legal requirements as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A reasonable accommodation is a modification or adjustment to an instructional activity, facility, program or service that enables a qualified student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to participate in all Rush University student activities. To be eligible for accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Both the ADA and Section 504 define disability as (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (b) a record of such impairment; or (c) being regarded as having such a condition.

Rush University Student Disability Assessment Team (RUSDAT)

Rush Medical College – Robert M. Leven, Ph.D.
(312) 942-6779
Robert_Leven@rush.edu

College of Nursing – Lisa Rosenberg, Ph.D., RN
(312) 942-7117
Lisa_Rosenberg@rush.edu

College of Health Sciences – Richard Peach, Ph.D.
(312) 942-3293
Richard_Peach@rush.edu

The Graduate College – James M. Williams, Ph.D.
(312) 942-3598
James_M_Williams@rush.edu

Ex-Officio – Paul Jones, M.D., Associate Provost Student Affairs
(312) 942-2819
Paul_Jones@rush.edu

Further information can be found at: <http://www.rushu.rush.edu/catalog/aboutrush/disabilityrights.html>