Dr. Mary S. Gregory  
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E-Mail: mgregory@nvcc.edu (the fastest way to reach me) Please use only your Nova e-mail!  
Web Site: http://www.nvcc.edu/home/mgregory (Incident Analysis format, glossary, article, etc.)  
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Office Hour: before or after class by appointment, CM362

In this course we will examine some of the ethical conflicts involved in certain kinds of medical situations. And in certain specific, single cases, we will analyze the moral dilemma which may be obscured by the situation's medical and social intricacies. This job may be difficult and often frustrating. The advance of medical research and technology in management of injury, disease, and disability, puts greater and greater pressure on the moral philosopher, as it is his job to test conventional and classical ethical principles in their applications to ever-changing medical circumstances. The range of our discussions is illustrated by the list of readings below. Please note that many of these theoretical readings contain competing academic opinions, and some not necessarily held by the professor. This class will respect serious beliefs already valued by the student.

Materials:  
2) (Required) Important Classroom Handouts;  
4) (Required) Scantron Test Cards (2), short form, (size of a business envelope) available at the bookstore.

Graded Assignments:  
1st Incident Analysis: 27% of the course grade (B+ is often the highest grade.)  
1st Test: 13% of the course grade (Some score 100%.)  
2nd Incident Analysis: 40% of the course grade (Your most thoughtful work!)  
2nd Test: 20% of the course grade (Few students score 90%.)  
100% Both written assignments: 1 2 to 2-pages, restricted to analysis of a single-medical-incident, logically defended, using a required, sectioned form provided by the instructor. (See workshop.) Understanding and following directions carefully is critical to these assignments!

Bonus: Since I have already charted out the structural form of your analysis, this saves you organizational time. But you must pick the incident and fill in the sections on a worksheet. Warning: There is a different opening sentence requirement for each analysis...Pay attention!

Grammatical errors and poor writing skills will reduce your grade. Late analyses will receive a half-letter grade penalty, unless serious conflict is made known in advance. Rough drafts cannot be reviewed as a whole by me, due to class sizes, but individual and specific questions about your work
can be sent to me anytime via e-mail. (Benefit: E-mailed comments from me don’t have to be remembered like my spoken replies in the classroom or walking down the hallway!)

Each test: Scantron, 40 multiple-choice questions, in-class exam. No essay questions. I must be notified in advance of any, very serious conflict (family death, student hospitalization, etc.) The tests will deal mostly with issues from the readings and materials presented by the instructor that are discussed in class. Consequently, class attendance is critical and roll will be taken periodically.

Reward: Any student who earns at least an A- on the 1st analysis, plus a 90% or above score on the 1st test, has qualified out of the 2nd test and may choose instead to submit a 3-5 page 2nd incident analysis. However, this incident must be approved and narrowed by your instructor in advance of its analysis, and must still conform to the 2nd incident analysis opening requirement and whole required format.

Course grades are computed by a Microsoft Excel program using the above percentage values. Failure to submit required work may result in withdrawal from the class or an F in the course.

Philosophy 227 Reading and Assignment Dates

Week 1: Receive syllabus; double-check registration: (Please obtain a paper printout of your class schedule.) Course requirements; seeking an incident to analyze; ethics/biomedical ethics; major moral principles; the Hippocratic Oath.

Week 2: Ethics for Physicians, Truth-Telling, and Disclosing Bad News: Pellegrino’s theory, presented in class; Thomasma, pp. 128-132; Sigman et al, pp. 133-138; optional casebook, pp. 19-23, pp. 7-10.


Week 4: Workshop on Required Incident Analysis Format. Critical! Bring some incidents.

Week 5: Autonomy, Confidentiality, and Treatment Refusal: video presentation and discussion. Siegler, pp. 116-118; optional casebook, pp. 62-65. FIRST day to submit 1st Incident Analysis, either pasted into e-mail or brought to class. AVOID attachments, please.

Week 6: Assisted Reproduction Technology, Cloning, and Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Kass, pp.603-617, Meilaender, pp. 649-656, optional casebook, pp. 69-72. LAST Day to submit 1st Incident Analysis, either pasted into e-mail or brought to class. Please AVOID attachments.


Week 8: Evidence Against Abortion: Marquis, pp. 270-277, difficult. Read Gregory article from web site located at the top of this syllabus.


Changeable date: Last day to withdraw without grade penalty! Beware: AFTER this date, clicking on the W on NovaConnect is actually giving YOURSELF an electronic F grade!!!!
These F-s are nasty to get rid of. E-mail if you have a problem.

Week 10: First Scantron Exam. Bring #2 pencil and a new, business-envelope-size Scantron card. (Crumpled cards will not scan properly.) You may bring a native English dictionary.

Week 11: The Many Kinds of Euthanasia: Background and Critical Terminology, pp.179-184, Gert et al, pp. 244-251; Callahan, presented in class; optional casebook, pp. 135-140.

Week 12: Physician-Assisted Suicide, also known as VA Self-E: Two Supreme Court cases, pp. 205-211; Oregon Death with Dignity Act, pp. 201-204; McKay v. Bergstedt, presented in class.

Week 13: 2nd Incident Analysis Workshop: Bring new medical incidents and we’ll write YOUR analysis!

Week 14: Nutrition/Hydration: Video Presentation: Cruzan case. FIRST day to submit 2nd Incident Analysis, either pasted into e-mail or brought to class. Please AVOID attachments.

Week 15: Discussion of Cruzan: Cruzan v. Director, MO Dept. of Health, pp. 159-163; Kass, pp. 191-200. Targets for the Second test. LAST day to submit 2nd Incident Analysis, either pasted into e-mail or brought to class. Do not attach your analysis to the e-mail.

Week 16: Second Scantron Exam. Bring #2 pencil and Scantron card (the small, business-envelope size). You may bring a native English Dictionary. Don’t come sleepy!

SPECIAL NOTES (The Fine Print!):

(1) In case of emergency, please follow the emergency procedure as discussed on the first day of class and as posted in the classroom.

(2) Students are expected to follow Information Technology Student/Patron Ethics Agreement as posted in computer areas and academic integrity standards as set down in the student handbook.

(3) NVCC is a place for learning and growing. You should feel safe and comfortable anywhere on this campus. In order to meet this objective, you should let your instructor, his/her supervisor, the Dean of Students or Provost know if any unsafe, unwelcome or uncomfortable situation arises that interferes with the learning process. Your instructor will do the same in regard to you.

(4) Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact a Counselor for Disability Services in CG 211 to discuss possible accommodations. All information is kept confidential and may increase your chances of success in the academic setting.