HSCI 347
The Foundations of Healthcare Ethics
Spring 2014

Course Syllabus
Revised 12/2013
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA

COURSE NUMBER: HSCI 347

COURSE TITLE: Foundations of Healthcare Ethics

COURSE CREDIT: 3 SCH

COURSE FACULTY: Carolyn A. Prosise, MSN, RN, CNOR
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1000-1500 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

 Course Description: This course introduces undergraduate students to health care ethics. It includes the philosophical underpinnings of health care ethics, examples of health care dilemmas, and examples of legal documents that are important during health care delivery. Some of the topics discussed include, but are not limited to, euthanasia (active and passive), hospice, abortion, patient rights, the refusal of chemotherapy, and medical use of marijuana for adjunctive cancer pain treatment.

COURSE DELIVERY METHOD:

This course is web-based

REQUIRED TEXT:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.).* Washington D.C.: Author. ISBN – 1557987912

Stanford, C.C. & Connor, V. J. (5014). *Ethics for Health Professionals.* Jones & Bartlett. ISBN-9781449689605.

Computer Requirements

Minimum Windows PC Requirements:

- Pentium IV 1.5GHz+ (preferred: Core Duo)
- 1 GB RAM minimum (preferred: 2 GB)
- 128MB Video Card minimum - Sound Card is required for some courses
- 56K modem minimum (Cable or DSL required for some courses)
- Windows 2000, XP, Vista or 7
- Web browser (Internet Explorer 7.0+; Firefox 3.0+)
- Microsoft Word, minimum Office 97

- Plug-ins such as Flash player 10 +, QuickTime player 7.0+, Adobe Reader 9.0+ , Java Runtime Environment (Java 1.6.0_15) and Windows Media Player 10+

- **At the least a microphone for delivering presentations. A headphone/microphone combination would be best. Most newer laptop computers have these built in.**
- Some online courses may also require a CD ROM (8x minimum, higher recommended)

Minimum Apple Macintosh Requirements:

- Blackboard has certified the following browsers for computers running Macintosh Operating Systems:
    - Mac OS 10.2 (Jaguar): (Safari 1 is compatible)
    - Mac OS 10.3 (Panther): Safari 1.2 (Firefox 1.5 is compatible)
    - Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger): Safari 2 and Firefox 1.5
    - Mac OS 10.5 (Leopard): (Firefox 2.0 is compatible)
- Intel Core 2.0GHz+
- 1 GB RAM (preferred: 2 GB)
- 128MB Video Card minimum - Sound Card is required for some courses
- 56K modem minimum (Cable or DSL required for some courses)
- Web browser (Firefox 3.0+ ; Safari 3.0+)
- Microsoft Word, minimum Office 97
- At the least a microphone for delivering presentations. A headphone/microphone combination would be best. Most newer laptop computers have these built in.
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- Some online courses may also require a CD ROM (8x minimum, higher recommended)

Account Information
Login Name = (First 4 letters of last name) + (Last 4 numbers of CWID) (Campus-Wide Identification) *(ex: smit1234)*
Password = CWID number (no dashes)

General Information
For All Students that Pre-Register, a Student account will be available the first day of classes and not before.
For New Students that Register on or after the first day of classes, a Student login account will be available within 24 business day hours of registering.

Accessing Your Online Course
Access the Blackboard website at www.tamut.edu
Hover over the Current Students link, scroll down to click on Blackboard.
Choose "Go to My Blackboard" link.
A system browser check will automatically be performed notifying you of any areas that are in error.
Login using your account information.

If you have questions regarding access to Blackboard, please contact Kevin Williams at **(903) 223-1356 or Technology Services at (903) 223-3084.**

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of this semester, the \ students will be able to:

1. Discuss the evolution of the ethical aspects of healthcare in light of the historical development of ethics as a branch of philosophy;
2. Distinguish among the various ethical principles and legal aspects that impinge upon healthcare delivery;
3. Critique various legal precedents that impact ethical issues confronted by healthcare professionals in the delivery of care;
4. Analyze the various ethical frameworks as they apply to healthcare;
5. Critique various ethical systems

EVALUATION METHODS:

Online Discussions …………………………………………………..20%
Book Report …………………………………………...………………30%
Journal Article Critique # 1…..……………………………………… 25%
Journal article Critique # 2 ………………………………………… 25%

GRADING SCALE: A = 90-100 - B = 80-89 - C = 70-79 - D = 60-69 - F = 59 and below

        Criteria for Written Assignments:
All written assignments must be prepared on a computer using 12-point font and in correct APA format as indicated in the 2010 APA Manual. All written assignments must have a title page. All papers will be graded according to the specific criteria and rubric given for each assignment. Due dates for each assignment are indicated on the class schedule.
All papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word format or pdf.
[If you are not sure what this means, please consult with the professor.]

        Book Review/Critique:
This assignment is a 5 – 7 page paper (exclusive of title page and references) in which you review and critique one of the books listed below:
1. Beckwith, F.J. (2007). *Defending life*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
2. Bonhoeffer, D. (1949). *Ethics*. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.
3. Hasson, K.S. (2012). *The right to be wrong*. New York: Image.
4. Metaxas, E. (2010). Bonhoeffer. Dallas: Thomas Nelson. (Note: This book is a biography; however, you will be able to discern Bonhoeffer's ethical stance and therefore will be able to write your review/critique according to the criteria listed below for this assignment.) (See Rubric in Bb)
5. Diamond, B. (2008). *Legal aspects of nursing* (5th ed.). London: Longman Publishing Company.
6. Fremgen, B.F. (2012). *Medical law and ethics* (4th ed.) New York: Pearson.
7. Kapp, M.B. (2009). *Legal aspects of elder care*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
8. Budziszewski, J. (2011) *What we can't not know.* San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

In this paper, you must:
1. Summarize and give a synopsis of the book;
2. Discuss how the author views the nature of ethics as a discipline; (N.B. if you review Metaxas' book, give Bonhoeffer's view of the nature of ethics)
3. Critique the author's viewpoint on ethics; (N.B. same comment as above in #2)
4. Compare the author's viewpoint on ethics with your viewpoint; (N.B. same comment as #2 above)
5. Identify how reading and reviewing this book has enhanced your understanding of ethics as a discipline that has relevance to healthcare.

Journal Article Critiques:

These two assignments are 2-3 page papers critiquing journal articles discussing a particular aspect of ethical principles that apply to healthcare and an ethical issue in healthcare. For the first critique, select an article from one of the journals listed in "Information" that discusses the issue of justice and the **allocation of health resources**. For the second article critique, select an article from one of the journals listed in "Information" that discusses a **specific issue in healthcare** such as abortion, euthanasia, organ donation, etc. use the following criteria to write your paper: (See Rubric in Bb)

1. Discuss the nature of the issue you are discussing in the paper;
2. Summarize the article in terms of the author(s)' main points;
3. State your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the author(s)' main premise (support your reasons from the texts or other references);

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

- **Participation Policy:**
  The student is expected to participate in assigned online discussions by making an initial posting with responses to other classmates, as assigned. You will complete a family project that includes a teaching product, write a scholarly paper, and create an on-line presentation. You may use your own family, but be sure to keep all information confidential. All assignments and discussions must be turned in by 2400 on the due date to receive the most points. They may also be turned in early.

- **Course Etiquette:**
  Students are expected to demonstrate respect for fellow classmates and the instructor throughout the course by responding in a thoughtful manner that does not criticize or demean anyone in the class.

- **Discussion Board Standards:**
  Initial posts must answer the question posed fully. When required, responses to classmates must be meaningful. Not just "I agree", tell us why etc. Please make all posts by due date to receive the most points. Please post DB (Discussion Board) assignments in that area of Bb. If you are having trouble, please get help. I am available to assist you as needed.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION:
Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of 'F' in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

A&M-TEXARKANA EMAIL ADDRESS:
Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

DROP POLICY:

To drop this course, a student needs to complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form; this form is located on the University website (http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html) or obtained in the Registrar's Office. Students must submit the signed and completed form to the faculty member for each course indicated on the form for their signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form is submitted to the Registrar's office for processing either in person, email (Registrar@tamut.edu), or fax (903-223-32140). Incomplete forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission.

LATE WORK

Work submitted after midnight of the due date will be subject to a 10% per day grade reduction unless arrangements are made with the course faculty prior to the assignment due date.

RESERVE RIGHT

The professor reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes to the syllabus as the course needs arise.

STUDENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

- Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found at this link: http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/index.php?pageid=37
- If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: http://www.tamut.edu/webcourses/gethelp2.php
- Blackboard Helpdesk contacts:

Office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p
    Julia Allen 903-223-3154 jallen@tamut.edu
    Frank Miller (alternate) 903-223-3156 frank.miller@tamut.edu
    Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu