Biomedical Ethics
Philosophy 444/544
-Sample Syllabus-

Course Description: In this course, we will explore some of the classic and contemporary moral and ethical problems in medicine, in the health care field, and in biotechnology. Issues to be addressed include patient autonomy and informed consent, human experimentation, the allocation of scarce resources (including organs for transplantation), health-care distribution more generally, and nature of health and disease more generally. The class will aim for an interdisciplinary focus that draws on social, legal, economic, and scientific arenas to analyze ethical issues medicine.

Students are expected to gain an understanding of some of the classic and contemporary issues in biomedical ethics as well as some of the ways that these issues have been addressed by philosophers, medical doctors, and others. Students should gain the ability to recognize morally salient facts in medical and biomedical contexts, to reason about the situations in which those issues arise, and to reach and defend their own conclusions regarding these cases.

Required Books:

Other readings will be posted Online as necessary.

Required Work: The required work in the class differs for students taking the course as Philosophy 444 and those taking the course as Philosophy 544.

**Philosophy 444:**
- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Two Short Writing Assignments @ 20% each = 40%
- Two Short Quizzes @ 20% each = 40%
  \[ \text{Total} = 100\% \]

**Philosophy 544:**
- Attendance and participation: 20%
- One Short Writing Assignment: 30%
- One Longer Paper: 50%
  \[ \text{Total} = 100\% \]
Sample of readings and topics covered

Week 1: Introduction to ethics and biomedical ethics
   Childress “The Normative Principles of Medical Ethics” Veach pp. 29-53
   Pence, Chapter 1

Week 2: Health, Disease, Illness, Treatment, Enhancement...
   Caplan “The Concepts of Health, Illness, and Disease” Veach pp. 57-73
   Enhancement or Treatment? (Readings On-Line)

Week 3-4: Patients, Persons, and Responsibility
   Brody “The Physician-Patient Relationship” Veach pp. 75-99
   Beauchamp “Informed Consent” Veach pp. 185-205
   Capron “Human Experimentation” Veach pp. 135-184
   Pence, Chapter 11

Week 5: Organ Transplantation: Experiment, Rescue, and Distribution
   Jonsen “Ethical Issues in Organ Transplantation” Veach pp. 239-269
   Pence, Chapters 12 - 14.

Week 6: Death, Dying, and End of Life Issues
   Brock “Death and Dying” Veach pp. 263-292
   Pence, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3

Week 7: Psychiatric Illness
   Kopelman “Moral Problems in Psychiatry” Veach pp. 275-316;
   Pence Chapter 15

Week 8: Assisted Reproduction Technologies
   Walters “Reproductive Technologies and Genetics” Veach pp. 210-234;
   Pence, Chapter 6

Week 9: Health-Care Allocation: Micro- and Macro-Issues
   Buchanan “Health-Care Delivery and Resource Allocation” Veach pp. 321-359
   Pence Chapter 18
   Within-Nation Income Inequality and Health Outcomes (Readings On-Line)

Week 10: No additional reading.