

PHILOSOPHY 205
BIOMEDICAL ETHICS
CHRIS CAYTON - INSTRUCTOR

TEXT : **Nursing Ethics Through the Lifespan**, By Elsie and Bertram Bandman, Appleton & Lang, Third ed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION :

The objective of this course is to provide the students with the opportunity to think about the moral problems and questions that arise in a medical context, in order to help them determine and express the reasons for their moral decision. The course will attempt to clarify ethical choices by bringing to light a variety of ethical value systems and principles in application to a variety of situations and issues, in order to evaluate them for their clarity and consistency. In this way, it is hoped that students will be better prepared to analyze moral dilemmas and respond to them according to objective criteria.

INTENDED OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE:

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Recognize the philosophical assumptions about moral issues that are embedded in the students' own ideas and in the ideas that permeate our culture.
2. Reflect on and evaluate the philosophical assumptions about moral issues that are embedded in the students' own ideas and in the ideas that permeate our culture.
3. Recognize and reflect on the interconnectedness of and the historical development of these ideas.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

The purpose of performance evaluation is that the student must somehow demonstrate that he/she has achieved the outcomes (listed above) for this course. The extent to which the student has met those outcomes is evaluated and rated/graded by the instructor. In determining your grade for this class equal consideration will be given to three areas of performance :

1. REFLECTION

Option 1 – Essays:

You will be given three essay assignments during the term. These essays should be typed, double-spaced. The length should be 3 pages minimum (about 850 - 1000 words).

The essays will be due one week after the subjects have been handed-out. The essays are due **AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. ASSIGNMENTS HANDED IN LATE WILL BE GRADED DOWN.** Together the essays will constitute 60% of the final grade.

If, however, you wish to work on an essay subject or project of your own choosing you may do so. This would allow you more time to research and write the essay. The essay subject must be approved by the instructor.

Option 2 – Service to Community

You will volunteer a total of 25 hrs time to a community agency. At the end of the term you will submit a report describing the work you have done and focusing on the philosophical implications of

the experience. The report should be about three pages in length (850-1000 words).

II. MEMORY

Short quizzes will be administered regularly throughout the term. The quizzes will cover the reading material assigned for that particular day, or the material covered during the previous class session. The quizzes will be in a short essay (½-1 page) format. They will not be announced prior to the day they are given. Taken together, the quizzes will constitute 40% of the final grade.

III. ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION :

Attendance will be taken on a regular basis and participation in class discussions will be noted. Even though no percentage rating for participation can be given, the importance of your contributions to class discussions cannot be stressed enough. Although non-participants will not be graded down, regular participants will be graded up.

On the other hand, 4 hrs. of missed class time can result in a 10% reduction of the final grade. I will take attendance at the beginning of class each day. I will not change attendance records for any given day on subsequent days. So, if you arrive late it is your responsibility to see me after class to make sure that you were not marked absent for that day.

In order to be assured of an “A” in this class a student will have to:

- 1) read the assignments for each class and perform consistently well on the quizzes,
- 2) write solid essays following the instructions concerning content and format that will be thoroughly explained by the instructor (see essay instructions attached),
- 3) participate in class discussions in such a way as to contribute to those discussions.

Note: I will assume you are taking the class for a letter grade unless you tell me otherwise. If you would like a Pass/No Pass option, or you would like to audit the class, you need to notify me in writing of your request by the third week of class. It would also be a good idea to remind me of your request at the end of the term.

HOW CAN YOU REACH ME?

Office hours: normally I will be at my desk in the Social Science department ½ hr. before the start of class. However, if you need to see me You will need to arrange to meet me either before or after class.

My desk is located in the SS (Social Science) Building 215, desk #. Ask the receptionist at the front desk how to locate the desk.

To be sure of seeing me at during those times or at another time, it is best to make an appointment. You may do this after class, by phone, or by e-mail:

Dept. phone #: **503-977-4289** Message: **503-244-6111 ex. 3745**

e-mail - ccayton@pcc.edu

Fax: 977-4959

I check my e-mail more often than I do my phone messages so that is the best way of getting in touch with me.

I also have a web page where you can get much of the information that you need for this class. Here is the address:

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AND EXPECTATIONS

As your instructor, I am committed to making this class as stimulating and relevant to your life as possible, and I will devote considerable time and energy toward achieving that goal. Therefore, the depth and quality of

your experience is largely dependent upon you and the extent to which you are willing to assume responsibility for yourself and the opportunity this class offers to you. The nature of this class is such that you will be thinking introspectively about the values, attitudes and experiences of your own life and you will be encouraged to communicate those thoughts to others in the class. While some people have no problem doing that, others may be uncomfortable with that level of openness. Consequently, a certain level of maturity will be required of everyone and consideration for others will be expected. Be aware of how certain behaviors can disrupt the ability of others to feel comfortable in class, for example:

- Talking or whispering to other students while someone else is talking.
- When I arrive in the classroom it will take me a couple of minutes to get set up. Use this time to terminate any discussion you are having with other students. When I start taking roll all talking should stop.
- Interrupting others while they are talking
- Dominating class discussion.
- Coming and going from the classroom while class is in session.
- Students are expected to arrive at class on time and remain in class until dismissed by the instructor. If, for whatever reason you arrive late to a class, please enter as quietly as you can. If for whatever reason, you plan to leave during the class session, please let me know before class begins.
- Cell phones or beepers that ring while class is in session... Turn them OFF before coming to class.
- Working on assignments for other classes.

Academic Integrity Policy

“Students of Portland Community College are expected to behave as responsible members of the college community and to be honest and ethical in their academic work. PCC strives to provide students with the knowledge, skills, judgment, and wisdom they need to function in society as educated adults. To falsify or fabricate the results of one's research; to present the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own; or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process of higher education.”

-Introduction to the “Academic Integrity Policy,” Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, Portland Community College –

http://www.pcc.edu/pcc/abt/rights/student_rights/default.htm