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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Health Sciences
COURSE PBHE532
Ethical Issues in Public Health
3 Credit Hours
Length of Course: 8 weeks
Prerequisite: None

Instructor Information

Please refer to the Syllabus tab for your instructor's contact information and biography.

Course Description (Catalog)

This course will investigate ethical issues in public health through discussion of case studies and applicable ethical theories

Course Scope

This course will examine the impact of some of the recent developments in biology and medicine on the public health education and on human nature, freedom, and dignity in particular. General ethical theories will be studied and then applied to specific public health moral dilemmas. Topics such as abortion, euthanasia, professional/patient relationships, right and responsibilities, and human experimentation will be included.

Course Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

Explain a rationale for the study of ethical theories and issues in the public health profession.

Explain various codes of ethical conduct for health professions.

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Explain the role of ethics in health conduct and policy.

Explain a personal and professional code of ethics.

Develop a decision-making ability through discussion and case study.

Discuss a reasonable and feasible future course of action for public health ethics.

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due weekly as noted on the course outline and can include Forum questions and written assignments. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Materials

Required Course Textbook:

1. Morrison, E. E. (2014). *Health care ethics: Critical issues for the 21st century 3ed.* Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett ISBN- 9781284063653V
2. American Psychological Association Publication Manual, 6th Edition.
3. Other material can be found in the Lesson area of the course.

Academic Writing Requirements:

The School of Health Sciences requires use of APA format and style and all students are encouraged to have a current copy of the *APA Publication Manual*. All written assignments are to be submitted in APA format style unless otherwise noted in the assignment directions.

Web Sites

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

- None

Evaluation Procedures

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Forum

Please join the forums each week. Replies must be posted in the week due and replies after the end of the each week will not be graded. The Forums are for student interaction and input should be submitted before the week ends in order to fully participate in the discussions. Students should demonstrate their own knowledge in the forums and avoid copying and pasting from websites.

Guidelines:

- Post the initial response to each forum by 11:55pm, ET, Wednesday.
- Initial responses should be no less than 450 words.
- Initial responses are to be original in content and demonstrate a thorough analysis of the topic.
- Reply to at least 2 of your classmates in each forum by 11:55pm, ET, Sunday.
- Replies to classmates should be no less than 200 words.
- Responses to classmates are significant to advance the forum.
- All forums can be accessed in the Forums section of the course.
- Forum rubric is included in the forum section of the course
- Additional guidelines for week one forum introduction are included in the forum tab within the course
- More in-depth specific instructions for each forum can be found in the forum tab within the course.
- **Late Forum posts receive a 10% per day late penalty. If your 2 peer responses are posted after the week is ended (after Day 7, Sunday) they receive a zero, in that the discussion is over and you cannot receive credit for participation in a discussion with others after the discussion week has closed.**

Students will be responsible for providing a peer response posting for at least two (2) of their peers' postings, unless there are less than 3 students in the course, where only one (1) peer posting will be required. Your peer postings should challenge or expound upon at least one of the points made by your peer, and "I agree" does not constitute as an adequate response. As graduate students, you will be expected to provide comprehensive, relevant and well supported points in your assignments.

We all bring something unique to the classroom, from our understanding, our experiences, and our value systems. We honor and respect each person's diverse beliefs to help us see beyond the classroom to be the most effective individuals we can be. Therefore, we should all be respectful of others while expressing our viewpoints and opinions. Proper netiquette behavior

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is expected. Any inflammatory, demeaning or disrespectful language in a posting will be immediately removed from the discussion space.

Assignments

Case Studies: Students will be required to complete 5 case studies for this course (Due weeks 2, 3, 4, and 5). These case studies will be located in a folder in the Course Materials tab. Students will review ethical dilemmas and will provide recommendations on how to ethically manage and resolve the issue. In your response, assess the risks involved in the situation and discuss the ethical implications (and/or legal implications) and provide a rationale the steps your chose for your resolution. Students must: Identify the major ethical and or legal issue(s) in the scenario; identify all those invested in outcome (e.g. family members, patient, doctors, hospital administration, policy makers, etc); identify one action plan to resolve issue(s) – with proper literature support; discuss personal reaction to the scenario. Case study assignments should be no less than 1000 words in length, and proper grammar, spelling and APA format are required. These assignments are to be submitted to the Assignment area of the course.

Final Paper: Students will be required to complete an 8-10 page final paper for this course. The final paper will require the student to select a topic related to an ethical issue in health care. Since topics may vary, formatting will as well; however, students will need to provide:

- Abstract
- Overview, current scope of selected topic on the field of public health
 - If applicable, a historical perspective on past and present legal/political impact of selected issue
- Review of literature
 - Current impact topic has on various entities (legal system, policies, health care research, etc)
- Discussion/Recommendations
 - Policy or legal modifications
- Future implications

All papers will require an abstract (no more than 150 words), and referencing/citations (you must reference at least 5 scholarly sources in your paper) in proper APA format (these items will not be included in required page total). Any graphs or charts provided must be included in an appendix (these items will not be included in required page total). ***Your selected topic must be approved by the instructor (via email) by the end of Week 4. Your paper will be due by the end of Week 7.***

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Exams: There will be a final exam for this course. This exam will consist of 10 essay questions and will be untimed. **Students must complete the final by the end of week 8.**

Your paper must include at least 8-10 scholarly references (no Wikipedia!). Avoid use of secondary sources like websites or textbooks, instead use primary, scholarly journals, reports, etc. If you include a graph or chart (data), *the chart/graph should take up NO MORE than ¼ page, and be properly cited.*

APA 6th edition format (these items will not be included in the required page total). Also, any graphs or charts provided must be included in an appendix (these items will not be included in required page total).

Final Papers will be graded according to the 500-600 level Rubric.

- More in-depth specific instructions for each assignment can be found in the Assignment tab within the course.
- **Assignments submitted late without advance notice will receive a 5% per day late penalty and will not be accepted for grading five (5) days past the due date.**

Course Grading Outline

Grading Instrument		Percentage of Final Grade
Forum (8 @ 100 pts each)	800 pts	25%
Introductory Forum Post	10 pts	
Assignments		25%
Week 2: Case Study 1: Compare and Contrast	100 pts	
Week 3: Case Study 1: Compare and Contrast	100 pts	
Week 4: Case Study 1: Compare and Contrast	100 pts	
Week 5: Case Study 1: Compare and Contrast	100 pts	
Week 6: Case Study 1: Compare and Contrast	100 pts	
Ethics Final Paper	100 pts	30%
Tests and Quizzes		20%
PBHE 532 Final Exam	100 pts	
TOTAL	1510 pts	100%

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Course Outline					
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
1	Foundation in Theory of Health Care Ethics	<p>Describe the key concepts of Rawls and Nozick deontology.</p> <p>Describe the key concepts of consequentialism. Describe the essential elements of the principle of nonmaleficence.</p> <p>Describe the essential elements of the principle of beneficence.</p> <p>Explain how autonomy and justice can be used in health care practice</p>	<p>Morrison: Chapters 1 & 2</p> <p>Week 1 Lessons.</p>	<p>No Assignment for week 1.</p> <p>Final Paper Topic due by week 4</p> <p>Begin work on our Final paper due by week 7</p>	<p>Week 1 Forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Introduction - Theory of Health Care Ethics
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
2	Beginning of Life Issues and Ethics	<p>Review the critical issues related to the moral status of gametes and embryos.</p> <p>Critique the impact of the new reproductive technologies on ethical decision-</p>	<p>Morrison: Chapters 3-6</p> <p>Week 2 Lessons.</p>	<p>The Fertility Case Study</p> <p>Final Paper Topic due by week 4</p> <p>Continue working on our Final paper due by week 7</p>	<p>Week 2 Forum: Ethical Challenges about Embryos</p>

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		<p>making.</p> <p>Apply the ethical theories and principles to issues affecting the status of embryos.</p> <p>Discuss the moral arguments presented about abortion, and cloning.</p> <p>Apply ethical reasoning to birth-related clinical decisions.</p>			
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
3	Ethical Challenges for Adults	<p>Explain why competency is an ethics issue for health care.</p> <p>Explain how ethics relates to long-term care issues.</p> <p>Discuss the ethical issues relating to assisted living.</p> <p>Present the ethical arguments for and against physician-assisted death.</p>	<p>Morrison: Chapters 7-9</p> <p>Week 3 Lessons</p>	<p>Nursing Home Case Study</p> <p>Final Paper Topic due by week 4</p> <p>Continue working on our Final paper due by week 7</p>	<p>Week 3 Forum: Ethics of Long-Term and Assisted-Living Facilities</p>

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Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
4	Introduction to End of Life Issues and Ethics	<p>Discuss the ethical issues presented by the use of fluids and nutrition in the dying patient.</p> <p>Evaluate the role of the family in the dying process and the ethical issues posed by their involvement.</p> <p>Examine the role of the physician in the dying process and the ethical issues posed by their involvement.</p> <p>Examine the ethics of physician-assisted suicide.</p> <p>Analyze and discuss the physician-assisted suicide from the Kantian, Mill and Rawlsian view.</p>	Morrison: Chapters 10-12 Week 4 Lessons	<p>End of Life Case Study</p> <p>Final Paper Topic</p> <p>Continue to work on our Final paper due by week 7</p>	Week 4 Forum: Attitudes Patients and Their Families Have About Death
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
5	Ethical Issues for Health Care Organizations	Explain the difference between clinical ethics and institutional ethics.	Morrison: Chapters 13-16 Week 5 Lessons	<p>Hospital Committee Case Study</p> <p>Topic due by</p>	Week 5 Forum: Ethics of Long-Term and Assisted-Living Facilities

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		<p>Describe the function of ethics committees and the health care setting.</p> <p>Discuss current and future issues faced by ethics committees.</p> <p>Discuss the key ethics issues for pre-hospital and emergency care.</p> <p>Present an argument for including spirituality in the workplace.</p>		<p>week 4</p> <p>Continue to work on our Final paper due by week 7</p>	
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
6	Ethical Issues and Critical Issues for Society's Health-Part 1	<p>Explain the reasons for in the inequality in the American health care system.</p> <p>Discuss the ethical is issues in inequality.</p> <p>Evaluate the medical professional's role in domestic violence.</p>	<p>Morrison: Chapters 17, 18 & 20</p> <p>Week 6 Lessons</p>	<p>Religion Case Study</p> <p>Continue working on our Final paper due by week 7</p>	<p>Week 6 Forum: Inequalities and inequalities of the U. S. health care system</p>

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		<p>Explain the changes needed address domestic violence.</p> <p>Present an argument for including spirituality in the workplace.</p>			
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
7	Ethical Issues and Critical Issues for Society's Health-Part 2	<p>Explain what rationing is in the health care in relationship to the PPACA.</p> <p>Explain the ethical argument for and against rationing health care.</p> <p>Describe ethical issues involved with natural and manmade disasters.</p> <p>Examine the ethical foundations for disaster plans.</p>	Morrison: Chapters 19 & 21 Week 7 Lessons	Final Paper	Week 7 Forum: Ethics of Rationing in Healthcare
Lesson	Topic	Learning Goals	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)	Forum(s)
8	Ethical Issues and Healthcare Reform	<p>Explain the process used to create Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010</p>	Morrison: Chapters 22-24 Week 8 Lessons	<p>No Assignment for week 8.</p> <p>Final Exam</p>	Week 8 Forum: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA)

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		(PPACA). Discuss the ethical implications of healthcare reform. Determine the issues related to those who are not covered by PPACA. Discuss how PPACA will affect their practices.			
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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)