PHIL 386 A1: Healthcare Ethics
Fall 2022 - TR 11:00am-12:20 in Tory 1-090

Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Welchman

Description:

This course examines ethical problems that arise in health care. Topics will include the moral and legal status of professional ethical codes, the nature and purpose of informed consent, and the roles of substitute decision-making and evaluations of patients' best interests in making treatment decisions. We will also discuss special issues arising in clinical research, organ donation policy, and end-of-life decision-making (such as recent updates to Canada's Medical Assistance in Dying legislation.)

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define key concepts in health care ethics, including but not limited to, informed consent, paternalism, and privacy;
2. Explain the core principles of health care ethics, such as respect for autonomy,beneficence, and justice;
3. Use the concepts and principles of health care ethics to interpret typical issues in health care practice and policy;
4. Identify the special moral responsibilities of health care professionals, such as the responsibility to provide appropriate care and the duty to maintain confidentiality;
5. Recognize ethical issues in a case or a matter of policy and identify the information needed to deal with the issues;
6. Examine and compare ethical arguments for a position in health practice or policy, and assess the strength of competing arguments;
7. Recognize how discoveries in medical science and innovations in biomedical technology challenge accepted health care practice and policy;
8. Collaboratively and individually, provide well-reasoned arguments for positions on typical issues in health practice, research, or policy.