



**YAKIMA
VALLEY
COLLEGE**

NURSING PROGRAM

PHILOSOPHY 212
Ethics and Policy in Healthcare II

STUDENT COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2021 | 3 Credits

INSTRUCTORS:

Weeks 1-6: Matthew Owen, PhD | mowen@yvcc.edu | 509-574-4828

Weeks 7-11: Carol Milliron, MSN, RN | cmilliron@yvcc.edu | 509-574-4903

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Office Hours: Please know that the instructors are here to help you and we are eager to do so. The best way to reach us is via email. Since our course is online and we will not often be physically present in our offices, please email us to set up a time to virtually meet for office hours. Please feel free to contact us about any questions. We will do our best to respond within 48 hours during the work week.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will apply deontological ethics (including Kant's Categorical Imperative) to ethical problems in healthcare practice. Problems are to include nursing practices, end-of-life care, and gerontology. Normative ethics will also be applied in examining healthcare laws that govern nursing practice.

PREREQUISITE:

Admission to the Nursing Program at YVC and completion of Ethics and Policy in Healthcare I with a C or better.

COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Recognize and evaluate deontological ethical theories.
2. Apply dialectical reasoning in discussions about contemporary problems in healthcare.
3. Identify the major reasons for adhering or not adhering to the various normative theses.
4. Apply deontological ethics to contemporary problems in healthcare ethics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Learning outcome 1

- a. Identify the specific steps in reasoning, and the justification given for them, by individual moral philosophers.
- b. Analyze arguments both for and against deontological ethics.

Learning outcome 2

- a. Work cooperatively with others to generate and respond dialectically to questions about conceptions of right and wrong in healthcare ethics.

Learning outcome 3

- a. Apply the first form of Kant's categorical imperative to contemporary problems in healthcare ethics such as patient confidentiality, beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and quality of life concerns.
- b. Apply the second form of Kant's categorical imperative to contemporary problems in healthcare ethics such as patient confidentiality, beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and quality of life concerns.

Learning outcome 4

- Discuss ethical principles of informed consent.

Learning outcome 5

Discuss professional ethics and constraints in nursing practice.

Learning outcome 6

Discuss contemporary problems in healthcare ethics such as patient confidentiality and patient autonomy.

Learning outcome 7

Discuss death and dying and the concerns and questions that face nurses, the nursing profession and the public including code status, withdrawal of life support, and medical futility.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Davis, Fowler, & Arsoskar. *Ethical Dilemmas and Nursing Practice*, Latest Edition. Pearson.

ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Board Posts (50 points total / 10 points each discussion): Throughout the quarter there are five required discussion posts on Canvas, each including one original post and at least one reply to another original post by one's fellow classmate. For each discussion, an instructor will provide a discussion prompt that includes information about what each discussion is about and the content each original post needs to include. The discussion prompts will often focus on the *required course readings* but might also concern content from course lectures. Each student is to provide *one original post* that is in response to the discussion prompt and then at least *one reply* to a fellow student's original post. The five required Discussion Posts are worth 10 points each, for a total of 50 points, which is 50% of one's overall course grade. The posts will be graded on: (1) How well informed by the relevant course material (i.e. the required reading and lectures) they are and (2) Whether they reflect serious thought about that material as well as other posts in the discussion. Doing well in this course requires thoughtful, informed contributions to these discussions, which in turn requires reading the assigned readings and watching the lectures. **Original posts are due by Thursday at midnight** the week each discussion is assigned and must be *at least 100 words*. The **replies are due by Saturday at midnight** that same week and must be *at least 60 words*. As topics in this course can be of a sensitive nature, please be respectful to one another in these discussions.

Applied Ethics Paper (30 points): Students will be required to write a 3-page (double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font) paper on one of the ethical topics discussed in weeks 3-6. See *Applied Ethics Paper Handout* in Canvas for instructions.

Final Exam (20 points): At the end of the course, there is a cumulative final exam. The exam will be on Canvas. It will be a *closed* book but *open* notes exam.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Achievement of a cumulative score of 75% on course work is required.

Table: Course Assignments & Grading Weight

Discussion Board Posts	50 points total (10 points each discussion)
Applied Ethics Paper	30 points
Final Exam	20 points
Total	100 points

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	C	75-76.9%
A-	90-92.9%	C-	71-74.9%
B+	87-89.9%	D+	67-70.9%
B	83-86.9%	D	60-66.9%
B-	80-82.9%	F	0-59.9%
C+	77-79.9%		

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	TOPICS	LEARNING ACTIVITIES
1 3/30	(1) Course Intro: What we'll study & why it matters for healthcare (2) Review of metaethics	Read: Davis et al, Ch. 4 <i>Recommended:</i> Shafer-Landau, Chs. 9 & 10
2 4/5	(1) Review normative ethical theories (2) Review application of normative ethics to healthcare	Read: Davis et al., Ch. 2; Hippocratic Oath, <i>Britannica</i> , britannica.com/topic/Hippocratic-oath Discussion Board Posts: about above readings. Original post due by Thursday, reply due by Saturday.
APPLIED ETHICS		
3 4/12	(1) Abortion (2) Application of deontological and natural law ethics	Read: Davis et al., Ch. 7 Discussion Board Posts: about above reading. Original post due by Thursday, reply due by Saturday.
4 4/19	(1) Disability, Mental Illness (2) Gerontology (3) Application of natural law ethics & human ontology	Read: Davis et al., Ch. 9 Discussion Board Posts: about above reading and Case Studies I & II in the chapter. Original post due by Thursday, reply due by Saturday.
5 4/26	(1) Disorders of Consciousness (Coma, VS/UWS, MCS) (2) Diagnostic challenges (3) Guiding ethical principles	Read: Davis et a., Ch. 6 Discussion Board Posts: about above reading and Case Studies I & II in the chapter. Original post due by Thursday, reply due by Saturday.
6 5/3	(1) Defining Death (2) Futility & Doctrine of Double Effect (3) Assisted suicide & Euthanasia	Read: Davis et al., Ch. 8; Callahan (1992) Discussion Board Posts: about above reading and Case Studies I & II in the chapter. Original post due by Thursday, reply due by Saturday.
ETHICS TO POLICY		
7 5/10	(1) Advanced Directives	Read: Davis et al., Ch. 5
8 5/17	(1) Autonomy and Informed Consent (2) Patient Privacy	Read: Davis et al., Ch. 10
9 5/24	(1) Healthcare Ethics & Future Changes in Science and Technology	Read: Davis et al., Ch. 11
10 5/31	(1) Applied Ethics Paper: Turn Paper into Instructor, then summarize and discuss paper in small groups	Applied Ethics Paper: Submit on Canvas
11 6/7	FINAL EXAM	Exam: On Canvas

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with your instructor as soon as possible. The office location is in Sundquist Hall. Office hours vary according to clinical and classroom schedules, please call the Nursing Department at 574-4902 or the instructor's number provided on page 1 of this syllabus. General information on disability accommodation may also be obtained through Disabled Student Services located in Deccio Higher Education Building C138 or by calling 574-4961.

GENERAL POLICIES

Exams: Attendance is required for all scheduled exams and quizzes. Students who arrive late for an exam may not be admitted to the room and may have to reschedule to take the exam at the instructor's discretion. Students who are not in class for quizzes or who arrive after the quiz has been distributed, will be unable to take the quiz at that time and rescheduling is at the discretion of the instructor. Students who are late to exams or quizzes will complete a Performance Improvement Plan. Continuation of this problem may result in failure of the course and/or program dismissal. Students are not to leave the room during the exam. If students anticipate personal problems that might interrupt them during an exam, this should be discussed with the instructor **prior** to the beginning of the exam. If the student anticipates needing to use the restroom during testing, notify the instructor **prior** beginning of the test. Students who have emergencies that prevent them from being in class for an exam or quiz are required to notify the instructor **prior** to the scheduled exam. Re-scheduled exams must be taken within 24 hours of original time unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Students that do not notify lead instructor of anticipated absence and do not attend required exam will complete a Performance Improvement Plan. The student that had a "no call, no show" incident may not be allowed to reschedule the exam; this will be at the discretion of the lead instructor. Continuation of this problem may result in failure of the course and/or program dismissal. Examinations may only be taken **once**, no repeat exams are offered.

Cell Phones: All cell phones are to be turned off before class begins. During exams, cell phones are to be placed in the student's purse or backpack. Students who are anticipating emergency calls should discuss this with the instructor **prior** to the beginning of class.

Course Withdrawal: In order to withdraw from this course, an instructor's signature is required. It is the student's responsibility to secure an add/drop slip from the Registrar's office and fill it out completely. If a student withdraws from the course after taking the second exam, the student will receive the grade at the time of withdrawal on his/her nursing program records. The nursing program records are taken into consideration when a student appeals to the admission and progression committee. Refer to the Nursing Program Student Handbook for further information about admission, withdrawal, and progression information.