

Department of Health Policy and Management
College of Public Health
University of Georgia

HADM 7700
Public Health and Health Care Ethics
Spring, 2008 Syllabus

Course Information

Instructor: Robert S. Galen, M.D., M.P.H.
Office Location: N132 Coverdell Center
Phone: 706-542-5770
Email: Bobgalen@uga.edu
Office Hours: Wed. 3:00-5:00PM

Course Meeting Time and Location

Building: Coverdell Center
Room: S141
Day: Wednesdays
Time: 9:05AM – 12:05PM

Textbooks and Other Required Reading

Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine. B. Steinbock, J.D. Arras, and A.J. London, Eds. 6th Edition. New York, McGraw Hill, 2003, pp 830

Reprints and handouts will be provided to students. Current news relating to ethical issues will be sent occasionally via email, which should be monitored weekly. There will be a Web-CT account for this class as well with copies of all course materials.

Course Description

HADM 7700 is an introductory survey of some of the ethical issues facing the public health and health care systems in the United States. This course will review a number of topics and challenge students to think critically about them. Classes will consist of lectures and student led discussions. Guest lecturers will be drawn from the academic community, as well as other institutions, e.g. hospitals, health departments, etc. Students will be active participants, presenting environmental scans and leading weekly discussions based on the reading. A major goal will be a research paper on one of the

ethical issues or problems reviewed in class or in the readings. This will be presented at the end of the semester

Course Learning Objectives

To understand the basic principles of public health and health care ethics.

To think critically about ethical issues in public health and health care today, analyze complex situations, and develop a personal informed position.

To be comfortable discussing personal opinions about ethical dilemmas in a classroom situation.

To learn how to cope with moral ambiguity.

Course Requirements for Grading Purposes

Lead discussion: The Course Pack, which will be provided to you, contains either questions or a case for discussion (along with questions) for each study block. Students, working in pairs, will sign up and take responsibility for an assignment (either questions or a case) and lead the discussion in class. Student pairs will be required to coordinate responses to take different positions on each question, supported by ethical values or arguments. In addition, each student will write a brief paper (3-4 typewritten pages) answering the questions they were responsible for, due at the end of that class session.

Environmental Scans: Students will conduct environmental scanning of newspapers, magazines and other current literature. Each student will review and summarize one article and present it in class and be prepared to discuss its ethical implications. Details of the assignment will be provided.

On Line Course: Protection of Human Research Subjects: Details will be provided.

Research Paper: A paper (10-15 pages) on a topic covered in class or in the readings will be due on April 25. Your paper should present an argument forcing you to take a position on an ethical issue. The last two class sessions will be devoted to student presentations of their research paper. Details of this assignment will be provided. Your topic and a brief outline are due on Wednesday, March 7. The paper is due in class, April 25, 2006.

Final Exam: There will be NO final exam in this class. However, final exam time scheduled for this class will be used for an environmental scanning workshop.

Topical Outline

January 10
Course Description and Introduction

January 17
Moral Reasoning and Ethical Theory
Reading: 1-41

January 24
Foundations of the patient relationship
Reading: 43-143

January 31
Research Ethics and Human Subjects I
MOVIE in class
Reading: 693-745
Assignment: UGA- Protection of Human Research Subjects Certification

February 7
Research Ethics and Human Subjects II
Reading: 761-786

February 14
Ethics of Testing and Screening
Reading: Reprints to be distributed

February 21
Death and Dying I
Reading: 245-321

February 28
Death and Dying II
Reading: 323-439, Additional reprints to be distributed

March 7
Reprogenetics I
Reading: 461-500
Research Topic and brief outline due

March 14
Spring Break

March 21
Reprogenetics II
Reading: 501-594

March 28
Reprogenetics III
Reading: 595-683

April 4
Social Justice
Reading: 145-240

April 11
Ethics and Infectious Disease Control
Reading: Reprints to be distributed

April 18
Student presentations

April 25
Students Presentations
All research papers due today

May: exam week (TBA)
Environmental Scanning workshop
Course evaluation and discussion

Grading Policy

Letter grades (plus/minus) in this course will be based upon class participation, written assignments and a final research paper and presentation.

20% Class participation

5% Lead discussion of weekly questions or case discussion

10% Brief paper on the week for which you lead discussion

10% On-line certification in protection of human research subjects

5% Presentation of environmental scan

50% Research paper and classroom presentation

A	90-100
A-	87-89
B+	84-86
B	80-83
B-	77-79

C+	74-76
C	70-73
C-	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 and below

Make-Up Policy

There is no exam in this course. Late assignments should be handed in and will automatically receive at least the equivalent of one lower letter grade.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken. Students are expected to come to class prepared to share ideas and discuss assigned readings. In some cases, absences can be excused. Excuses for anticipated absences must be cleared with the instructor before the absence occurs. Send an e-mail explaining the situation. Excused absences include, but are not limited to, absence for court appearances, verifiable illness, and certain family emergencies/events. Written, dated documentation may be requested for each excused absence. Students with three (3) unexcused absences will be dropped from this class.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Students are advised to consult the UGA Policy on Academic Honesty:

<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.

General Disclaimers

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Cell Phone and Pagers: Turn off cell phones and pagers before coming to class. If you are expecting an important call and your cell phone or pager rings during class, please leave the classroom before answering the call.