**Outline**
In this course, we analyze the challenges that contemporary multicultural society poses to healthcare ethics. In the first part, we will describe these challenges and determine how they challenge normative healthcare ethics and clinical ethical practice. In the second part, we assess ways to overcome them in the field of normative ethical discussions. In the third part, we search for models and ways to deal with the challenges in clinical practice through organizational changes and instilling of cultural competence.

**Course Objectives**

a) **Course Description**
This course follows an interactive format that after an introductory session devotes most of class time to presentations by students, group discussion and development of the research essay. Through teacher instruction, their own creative research and the critical input of other students the students become aware of the particular challenges that contemporary multicultural society poses to healthcare ethics. The students learn to identify these challenges in a clinical context, and in the field of normative healthcare ethics. Particular attention is paid to health disparities and the difficulties related to the development of normative ethical arguments in a multicultural context. The students learn to develop strategies to overcome these challenges.

b) **Competencies**
Upon completion of the course, students should master the following competencies, as should be demonstrated in specific research projects and presentations, class participation and in the research essay:

- a. The capacity to identify ethical challenges posed by multicultural society in a clinical context and in normative ethical discussions on ethical issues in healthcare
- b. The ability to propose concrete solutions to disparities in healthcare through analysis of healthcare providers’ attitudes and behaviors, and assessment of opportunities for organizational changes. This ability will enable students to become aware of the importance to perform clinical ethics consultations with cultural competence.
- c. The capability of normative ethical argument formation in a multicultural healthcare context
c) General HCE Program Learning Outcomes
The following HCE Program Learning Outcomes pertain to this course.

Fundamental Knowledge. Students can understand and analyze the ethical challenges posed by multicultural society to healthcare.

Multi-disciplinary Study. Students can critically relate healthcare ethics with multi-disciplinary fields in health care as a diverse, multicultural, and global enterprise (e.g., empirical research, medicine, philosophy, science).

Scholarship. Students can research and write scholarly essays, teach and communicate effectively, and present academic papers that present cogent argument(s), engage scholarly literature, and demonstrate critical thinking and analysis regarding the challenges posed by multicultural society to healthcare ethics.

Professionalism. Students can integrate academic learning with experiential learning by applying cultural competence to practical and professional issues in health care.

Ethical Leadership. Students can function with expertise and provide ethical leadership in complex bioethical cases which involve persons with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Course Procedures

a) Research Projects and Required Readings

a.1) General Procedure
For this seminar, the students have to complete three written assignments: two research projects (7 pages plus end notes and bibliography), and one research essay (20 pages plus end notes and bibliography). Students will prepare and submit these assignments as per the schedule below.

i. Research Project #1, due Wednesday, September 20
ii. Research Project #2, due Wednesday, October 11
iii. Research Essay, due Wednesday, December 6
   • Submit Essay thesis, a 500 words abstract, outline, and basic bibliography, by Monday, October 16.
   • Option to submit mid-term essay. For students who want to be assisted in their progress, a draft of the essay can be submitted for feedback by Monday, November 6.
   • Final version is due Wednesday, December 6.

After finishing each research project, students will prepare a summary of their paper. This need not be a summary in full sentences and the summaries do not have to be submitted either, but students need to be able to orally explain their argument to their colleagues in eight to ten minutes. During the classes, students will be asked to present their arguments. At the end of the course, the students will also prepare an interactive 30-minute presentation of their research essay, which they will present in the final class sessions.
Reading Requirements. Each Research Project will require students to critically engage the equivalent of two or three books to (a) master the relevant knowledge and (b) engage in critical reading and writing.

Literature integration. Students should include approximately 25 notes in each research project referring to the texts assigned for the project. Endnotes and bibliography as well as title page and table of content do not count towards the prescribed number of pages.

Research competencies. The research competencies in the course are identified by the three course parts: (a) ethical problem assessment of multicultural society in healthcare, (b) normative problem solving, and (c) clinical and organizational problem solving. Students will acquire the first research competency through interactive class sessions. The two research projects will demonstrate that the student has mastered the second and third competencies respectively. In the research essay, students will demonstrate mastery of all three research competencies.

Relation of Projects with Essay. The two Research Projects may be integrated into the Research Essay but not in a manner of cut-and-paste from one to the other. The Research Essay typically demonstrates that the student has mastered a specific research competency. While the research papers are focused on one specific competency, the course essay must demonstrate all three competencies. The course essay furthermore is based on a self-selected thesis different for each student, while the topics of the research papers are given and similar for all students.

a.2) Research Project #1: Theoretical assessment of the possibility of normative healthcare ethics in a multicultural society
In the first classes, we will have identified the challenges of multicultural society to healthcare. Starting from these observations and engaging the required readings, students describe ways and strategies to deal with these challenges in their research papers. In the first research paper, the students answer the question whether and how normative healthcare ethics is possible in a multicultural society. The required readings for this paper are those of course part 2.

a.3) Research Project #2: Critical assessment of ways to overcome ethical challenges of multicultural society in clinical practice
For this research paper, the students focus on the ethical problems related to the administration of good clinical care to multicultural and multiethnic populations. On the basis of the literature, the students propose solutions to these problems. The required readings for this paper are those of course part 3.

b) Course Schedule
Week 1: Mon Aug 21. Introduction to the course requirements, procedures and theme
Part 1 Ethical challenges of multicultural society to healthcare
Week 2: Mon Aug 28. Racial and ethnic disparities

Required readings. The journal articles will be available through the Gumberg Library e-reserves. The link to the readings is: XXX. The password is: multicul.


**Week 3: Mon Sept 4. Labor Day: no class**

**Week 4: Mon. Sept 11. Racial and ethnic disparities**

**Week 5: Mon Sept 18. Cultural issues**

**Required readings.**


Part 2 Theoretical assessment of the possibility of normative healthcare ethics in a multicultural society

Required readings


Week 6: Mon Sept 25. Instruction, analysis, discussion, and presentations

Week 7: Mon Oct 2. Instruction, analysis, discussion, and presentations

Week 8: Mon Oct 9. Instruction, analysis, discussion, and presentations

Part 3 Critical assessment of ways to overcome ethical challenges of multicultural society in clinical practice

Required readings


Week 9: Mon Oct 16. Instruction, analysis, discussion, and presentations

Week 10: Mon Oct 23. Instruction, analysis, discussion, and presentations
c) Research Essay

The research essay will require students to substantively apply the Research Competencies of this course to a particular issue (theoretical or practical) in healthcare ethics. Throughout the essay the students develop a focused argument that shows the importance of considering the ethical implications of the multicultural nature of society in healthcare. The students are free to choose whether they want to emphasize normative or clinical/organizational aspects, or a combination of these. Yet, it is important that they demonstrate their acquaintanceship with all three research competencies in their essay.

Requirements:

1. Start to reflect on the thesis of your course essay from the beginning of the course.
2. Thesis, a 500 words abstract, outline, and basic bibliography to be submitted by Monday, October 16.
3. Students will receive general feedback in class and individual feedback through Blackboard.
4. Submit a copy of the essay by date assigned.
5. The course essay length should be at least 20 pages, double-spacing; the main body of text; title page, table of content, endnotes and bibliography do not count within the 20 pages.
6. Students must adopt the format of the Chicago Manual of Style, as required by the College for dissertation submissions.
7. Students can quote from publications in any language, but need to provide an English translation.
8. Select an Essay Title that reflects a research thesis.
9. Make a Title page and a separate Table of Content.
10. Present a brief Introduction and Conclusion.
11. Notes to the references made in the essay.
   a. Use end notes (as opposed to foot notes at the bottom of the page).
   b. Do not use notes for narrative explanations – they belong in the main text.
   c. There should be approximately 100 end notes in the essay.
12. Bibliography. List all the references in alphabetical order. Only list items actually referred to in the essay.
13. Divisions and subdivisions. Use major divisions (headings) and subdivisions (subheadings), evenly distributed throughout the essay, to lay out the sequence of concepts and arguments.
14. Use of online references. Online references must be accurately identified with complete web address etc., including the date of access. Students are requested to critically deal with content from the internet.

**HCE Handbook.** The Center for Healthcare ethics has developed a *Handbook of Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines* to guide students in all curriculum related matters.

**Course grade.** There will be no examinations. The course grade will be assigned based on the quality of the course research essay and the three research projects. The grade will be a combination of 10% for each of the two research projects, 10% for class presentations, and 70% for the final essay.

No midterm grades will be assigned. End of term grades will be assigned adopting grading policy in the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts, as follows:

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**Academic integrity.** This syllabus incorporates the “Expectations of Academic Integrity.” Cheating and plagiarism cannot be tolerated. All relevant policies of the McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts apply.

**Reasonable accommodations.** Students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations if needed. If you need accommodations, please contact the Office of Freshman Development and Special Student Services in 309 Duquesne Union (412-396-6657) as soon as possible. Accommodations cannot always be granted retrospectively.