Course Description
In practice, healthcare is not only a relation between a care provider and patient; this relation is also influenced by the interests of insurance companies, hospital administrators, pharmaceutical companies, medical equipment suppliers, and the general public. With so many forces pushing and pulling on the kinds of decisions being made, it becomes necessary to develop an account of what is the ultimate goal of healthcare, and how this goal can be realized. Ethics is the area in philosophy that addresses these issues by asking what is the best life? what is good? and how ought one act? These theories provide us with criteria for evaluating concrete situations within healthcare practice and for deciding which alternative is the best choice, the right choice, or the least harmful choice. Therefore, this class will have two essential components: first, we will be reading classical texts in the history of philosophical ethics such as Aristotle, Kant and Mill to provide us with general criteria for making ethical decisions. Second, we will be reading case studies within the field of medical ethics, that challenge the legitimacy of ethical theories by presenting dilemmas for everybody involved in the healthcare decision making.

Required Texts
ISBN: 978-0078038457

ISBN: 978-0872201668

ISBN: 978-0872206052

*Other readings will be accessible as PDFs on BlackBoard.

Course Requirements
Students grade will be composed of in-class participation, one oral presentation, two short writing assignments, a final research paper, and a final exam.