College: McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts

Syllabus: HCE-642, MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY AND HEALTHCARE ETHICS, Fall 2015

Course: 3:05-5:45 pm on Monday 08/24, Monday 09/21, Monday 10/19, Monday 11/16 in Fisher Hall 722

Office hours: Appointment or walk-in, 301A Fisher Hall
Tel. 412.396.2616
Email: gielenj@duq.edu

Course instructor: Joris Gielen, Ph.D.
Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Outline
In this course, we analyze the challenges which 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 a seminar format which 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 which 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 four written assignments: three research projects (research paper one 8 pages, research paper two and three each 9 pages, and an oral presentation related to one of the research projects), and one research essay (25 pages plus end notes & bibliography). Students will prepare and submit these assignments as per the schedule below.

i. Research Project #1, week 1-4, due Wednesday, September 16
ii. Research Project #2, week 5-8, due Wednesday, October 14
iii. Research Project #3, week 9-12, due Thursday, November 12
iv. Research Essay, week 13-16
   - Submit Essay thesis, a 500 words abstract, outline, and basic bibliography, by Monday, October 5.
   - 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 9.
   - Final version is due Tuesday, December 8.

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 25-30 notes in each research project referring to the texts assigned for the project. If students want to integrate other relevant literature (including the prescribed literature from other research papers of this course) they are free to do so. Endnotes and bibliography as well as title page and table of content do not count within the prescribed number of pages.

**Research competencies.** The research competencies in the course are identified by the three Research Projects: (a) ethical problem assessment of multicultural society in healthcare, (b) normative problem solving, and (c) clinical and organizational problem solving. Each Research Project will demonstrate that the student has mastered the specific competency.

**Relation of Projects with Essay.** The three 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: Ethical challenges of multicultural society to healthcare**

In this course’s first session, the students gain insight into the necessity of considering the multicultural nature of society when assessing healthcare. After this introduction, the students study the ethical challenges which multicultural society poses to healthcare. By critically and creatively engaging the assigned texts, the students determine and describe these challenges to normative ethics and clinical practice. The students choose a title for their paper which succinctly summarizes their observations. When they submit their paper to the course instructor, the students also send a copy to a review buddy, who will be assigned during the first session and who will be one of the other students in the class. Before the second session, the review buddies read the paper and send a brief review report (ca. 20 lines) to the paper’s author and the course instructor. In this report, they describe the paper’s strengths and list possible points for improvement. This procedure will help the students to critically reflect upon the course subject and their academic output.

**Required readings.** The journal articles will be available through the Gumberg Library e-reserves. The link to the readings is: [http://guides.library.duq.edu/er.php?course_id=10888](http://guides.library.duq.edu/er.php?course_id=10888). The password is: multicul.


a.3) Research Project #2: Theoretical assessment of the possibility of normative healthcare ethics in a multicultural society

In the first research paper, the students have identified the challenges of multicultural society to healthcare. Starting from these observations and engaging the additional required readings, they describe ways and strategies to deal with these challenges in the second and third research paper. In the second research paper, the students answer the question whether and how normative healthcare ethics is possible in a multicultural society.
**Required readings**


**Research Project #3: 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.

**Required readings**


**b) Research Seminars**

There will be four seminars. After the introductory first seminar, in each of the seminars, the focus will be on one of the three research competencies. For these sessions, students will be requested to prepare a presentation of maximum 15 minutes of their research papers. Power point or overhead may be used (but no need); the allotted time may not be exceeded. Each student will do one formal presentation in the course. In the first seminar, a schedule of these presentations will be made so that students know on which day they are expected to do their presentation. Other students may be invited to discuss their project and to comment on their colleagues’ presentations.

1. **Week 1: Mon Aug 24**, Seminar #1: introduction
   - i. Introduction to the course
   - ii. Introduction to the main issues and concepts regarding multicultural populations in healthcare
   - iii. Discussion of research paper requirements and course essay

2. **Week 5: Mon Sept 21**, Seminar #2: Ethical challenges of multicultural society to healthcare (Research Project #1)
   - i. Discussion of progress on research essays
   - ii. Presentations of completed Research Project #1
   - iii. Discussion of peer reviews
3. **Week 9: Mon Oct 19**. Seminar #3: Theoretical assessment of the possibility of normative healthcare ethics in a multicultural society (Research Project #2)
   i. Discussion of progress on research essays
   ii. Presentations of completed Research Project #2

4. **Week 13: Mon Nov 16**. Seminar #4: Critical assessment of ways to overcome ethical challenges of multicultural society in clinical practice (Research Project #3)
   i. Discussion of progress on research essays
   ii. Presentations of completed Research Project #3

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 which 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 5.
3. Students will receive feedback in Seminar #3.
4. Progress will be reported in Seminar #4.
5. Submit a copy of the essay by date assigned.
6. The course essay length should be at least **25 pages**, double-spacing; the main body of text; title page, table of content, endnotes and bibliography do not count within the 25 pages.
7. Students must adopt the format of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, as required by the College for dissertation submissions.
8. Students can quote from publications in any language, but need to provide an English translation.
9. Select an Essay Title that reflects a research thesis.
10. Make a Title page and a separate Table of Content.
11. Present a brief Introduction and Conclusion.
12. 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.
13. Bibliography. List all the references in alphabetical order. Only list items actually referred to in the essay.
14. Divisions and subdivisions. Use major divisions (headings) and subdivisions (subheadings), evenly distributed throughout the essay, to lay out the sequence of concepts and arguments.
15. 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.
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 three research projects 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>distinguished scholarly work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>normal progress towards degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>warning; student subject to departmental action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.