

College: McAnulty College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts.
Syllabus: **HCE-658-758, Intensive Research in Healthcare Ethics**, Summer 2019.
Revised: 3/15/19.

Office Hours: By appointment.
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Course Instructor:
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COURSE OBJECTIVES.

The course offers an opportunity for students to investigate intensive research topics in healthcare ethics related to their anticipated DHCE Project or PhD Dissertation. The course will guide students from their broad interest in general doctoral topics to the development of a focused research thesis, investigating relevant arguments and literature to support the main components of their subsequent doctoral writing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES.

- a. Fundamental Knowledge. Students will understand and analyze the major ethical and scientific debates around the research topics of their dissertations.
- b. Multi-disciplinary Study. Students will critically relate discourse on the research topics of their dissertations with multi-disciplinary fields in health care as a diverse and global enterprise (empirical research, law, medicine, philosophy, religion, science, etc).
- c. Scholarship. Students will research and write scholarly essays that will contribute to future teaching and effective communication, preparing academic papers that present cogent argument(s), engage scholarly literature, and demonstrate critical thinking and analysis.
- d. Professionalism. Students will integrate their academic learning with experiential learning by applying discourse on the research topics of their dissertations to practical and professional issues in health care.
- e. Ethical Leadership. Students will provide ethical leadership on the research topics of their dissertations.
- f. Co-Curricular Practices for Life-long Learning. Students will foster co-curricular practices for life-long learning on the research topics of their dissertations genetics. Practices include: accessing journals and literature for developments in HCE; networking with colleagues in professional associations; fostering a community of scholars in the HCE program, for example, participating in seminars/colloquia/speaker events, preparing for comprehensive exams, writing doctoral projects.

RESEARCH COMPETENCIES.

The course is designed around three standards for excellence in research writing: argument formation, literature integration, critical organization and analysis. These will be applied to the research topics of their dissertations. The outcome is for students to select a focused doctoral thesis and to write a 25-page research essay divided into 5 main sections that will become the 5 chapters of the DHCE Project or PhD Dissertation.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS. There are no required readings insofar as each student will work individually with Professor Magill to identify a doctoral thesis and write a research essay based on the literature related to the selected topic.

COURSE SCHEDULE. We will run the course over summer 2019 (15 weeks).

- a. Week 1-2. Work with Professor Magill to write an outline of the essay as a draft of the future dissertation including: thesis, outline of 5 major sections/chapters, bibliography distributed across the main sections/chapters.
- b. Week 3-5. Submit a 5-page summary.
- c. Week 6-10. Submit a 15-page paper.
- d. Week 11-15. Submit final 25-page paper.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS.

Integrate the standards for a research essay (above) into the essay adopting this format.

1. The essay length should be **25 pages**, double-spacing.
2. Students must adopt the format of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, as required by the College for dissertation submissions.
3. Select an Essay Title that identifies an ethics thesis, e.g. “The ethical justification of patient safety programs in health care organizations.”
4. Present a brief Introduction and Conclusion.
5. 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 text.
 - c. There should be approx.100 end notes in the essay.
6. Bibliography. List all the references in alphabetical order. Only list items actually referred to in the essay.
7. Divisions and subdivisions. Use major divisions and subdivisions, evenly distributed throughout the essay, to lay out the sequence of concepts:

Title: The ethical justification of patient safety programs in health care organizations.

Outline with all sections & sub-sections.

 - I. Introduction.
 - II. The organizational ethics problem of medical error.
 - a. The range of medical problems.
 - b. The range of organizational problems.
 - III. The ethical principles that guide systems for patient safety.
 - a. Principle 1: Protection of Patients from Medical Error.
 - b. Principle 2. Systems to Enhance Quality Improvement.
 - IV. The policy options for Patient Safety Programs.

- a. Federal Oversight: an independent board.
- b. Joint Commission Accreditation Policy.
- V. The ethical justification of Patient Safety Programs.
 - a. Justifying oversight proposal A.
 - b. Justifying accreditation policy B.
- VI. Conclusion.
- VII. End Notes.
- VIII. Bibliography of references cited.
- 8. Use of online references. Online references must be accurately identified with complete web address etc, including the date of access.
- 9. Avoid the personal pronoun. Just make the argument without phrases like “I believe...”
- 10. Be very cautious about using quotations.

COURSE GRADE.

There will be no examinations. The course grade will be assigned based on the quality of the course research essay.

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

A	4.0	distinguished scholarly work
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	normal progress towards degree
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	warning; student subject to departmental action
F	0.0	

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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.

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

Students must be attentive to avoiding plagiarism. There is a form of plagiarism that needs special attention, as follows. When a text, e.g. 5 lines, is taken from a resource and used verbatim (with an accompanying reference), the result is plagiarism. Two general rules must be adopted to avoid plagiarism. First, any text from a resource that is three or more words should be in quotations with an accompanying reference. However, HCE faculty discourage an extensive use of quotations in essays insofar as they can detract from the student’s critical analysis. Second, to avoid extensive use of quotations and stimulate analytical interaction with textual resources, we recommend that when a text is adopted from a resource (e.g. 5 lines), flag the text in your essay with quotation marks and some form of colored highlight to remind you that you have adopted an exact

quote. Then expand the 5 lines into a paragraph of your critical analysis (e.g. 10-15 lines) that integrates the points in the quote into your own argument, while avoiding use of exact words from the quote. Then remove the highlighted original quote but provide a reference to indicate the resource used. Please strictly comply with avoiding any form of plagiarism. If the faculty member suspects plagiarism, the student's submission may be run through anti-plagiarism software, which detects various kinds of plagiarism. It is also recommendable to check your own text. Free downloadable software is available on the Internet.

Duquesne University has an Academic Integrity Policy (for Graduates) that pays special attention to the issue of plagiarism, see: <http://www.duq.edu/academics/university-catalogs/2016-2017-graduate/academic-policies/academic-integrity>. If plagiarism is confirmed there will be academic sanctions, varying from lowered grade to dismissal from the program.

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.