329-03 Bioethics

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Course Description: Introduce students to fundamental issues in bioethics.

Primary Texts:
*Readings will also be distributed from current scientific journals and The Basics of Bioethics, Third Edition by Robert M. Veatch (Pearson, 2012)

Requirements: Three page papers (2) = 25%
Five page papers (2) = 50%
Final Exam = 25%
Attendance Required
Participation Expected

Note: Up to 10 points of extra credit will be awarded for a 4-5 page book review of either:
Anne Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures (1997);
Rebecca, Skloot The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (2010).

Administrative Issues

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is appropriating someone else’s words or ideas without formal acknowledgement. Go to xavier.edu/library/xututor/plagiarism. Any plagiarism will result in an F for the course, and your dean will be notified of the incident. Don’t Do IT!

Electronics: Laptops, phones, iPods, and similar devices will not be used in class. Exceptions must be documented.
Any learning accommodations requested by the Office of Student Services will be supported completely.

Late Assignments will be reduced one letter grade for each class session assignment is late.

Class Room Etiquette

Rude and Unacceptable Behaviors:
- Not having books/handouts used in class in your possession;
- Coming to class unprepared;
- Texting (or any use of electronic devices) during class;
- Talking with others concerning matters unrelated to the class;
- Tardiness;
- Tuning-out;
- Sleeping.

Some Suggestions:

- Arrive on time;
- While waiting for class to begin, instead of talking or checking your phone, review your notes from last class;
- Choose a seat in a location other than the last row;
- Have your books on your desk ready to use;
- Consult your syllabus before class in order to understand what a particular class session will cover;
- Have questions prepared for the professor based upon a prior reading of the material;
- Engage!

Class Schedule:

8/26: Review syllabus: What is bioethics?

8/28: Introduction
8/30: Death of Ivan Ilyich (IL)
9/4: IL
9/6: IL
9/9: IL (Paper I Assigned)
9/11: Kübler-Ross
9/13: Annie Dillard
9/16: Annie Dillard
9/18: Tuesdays with Morrie
9/20: “The Meaning of Life” (Paper I due!)

**Enduring Myths of Knowledge and Progress**
9/23: Prometheus
9/25: Prometheus to Descartes (Paper II Assigned)
9/27: Descartes to Frankenstein
9/30: Lessons Learned
10/4: **no class** (Boston conference)

**Enough! Technology as Both Threat and Savior**
10/9 McKibben: Chapter 1
10/11 Chapter 2
10/14 Chapter 3
10/16 Chapter 3
10/18 Chapter 4
10/21 Chapter 4
10/23 Chapter 5
10/25 Chapter 5
10/28: Philosophical Implications of Technology
10/30: Moore’s Law
11/1: **no class** (American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting
Indianapolis, IA)

**Alternative Approaches to Thinking and Living**
11/4 Chopra: Chapters 1-2 (Paper II Due)
11/6 Chapters 3-4 (Paper III Assigned)
11/8 Chapters 5-6
11/11 Chapters 7-8
11/13 Chapters 9-10
11/15 Chapters 13-14
11/18 Clinical Implications
11/20 Clinical Implications (Paper 3 Assigned)
11/22 Case Studies
11/25 Case Studies (Paper III Due)

**Science and Spirituality: Similarities and Differences**
12/2 Dali Lama: Chapter 1 (Paper IV assigned)
12/4 Chapter 2
12/6 Chapter 2
Basic Learning Objectives

- Understand the philosophical issues concerning the meaning of life and death that arise in the course of bioethical reflection;
- Recognize some of the important myths that endure throughout western culture concerning life, death, and knowledge;
- Identify important bioethical issues that stem from advances in technological research;
- Appreciate alternative ways of thinking about life, death, health, and happiness;
- Discern ways in which scientific method and spiritual awareness are both similar and different.