

Institute for the Medical Humanities

MEHU 6317 ADVANCED PRACTICUM IN HEALTH CARE ETHICS

Syllabus
HOURS: 3

TIME: To be announced

LOCATION: To be announced

INSTRUCTOR: Michele A. Carter, PhD

PHONE: 772-5835

or Contact Beverly Claussen at beclauss@utmb.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to offer an in-depth exploration of ethical issues in health care with specific attention to the development of practical skills in bioethics problem solving, case analysis, policy development, clinical teaching, and/or intradisciplinary field work.

Students work independently under the supervision of a designated mentor who will assist the instructor in providing access to a variety of teaching-learning venues in health-care ethics. In most cases the Advanced Practicum is an opportunity for concentrated study of a theme, problem, or issue to be further developed at the thesis or dissertation stage.

Overall Learning Objectives for MEHU 6317 Advanced Practicum in Healthcare Ethics may include but not be limited to the following.

A. CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

1. Exposure to the clinical setting. An opportunity to:
 - Develop an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the day-to-day workings of the complex health care environment in which ethical decisions are made
 - Observe and critically assess the pragmatic, legal, social, and other constraints on ethics decision-making and practice in the clinical setting
 - Observe and critically assess inter- and intra-professional roles and working relationships
 - Observe and critically assess professional-patient roles and relationships
 - Observe and critically assess the mores and objectives of the institution
2. Identification of ethical issues. An opportunity to:
 - Identify and critically assess ethical issues as they arise in the clinical setting
 - Identify and critically assess ethical aspects of decisions made in the clinical setting
 - Develop an appreciation for the value of practical experience in the clinical setting in addressing ethical issues

- Identify and critically assess values presupposed by, for example, community mores, institutional structures, and professional socialization
3. Development of practical skills. An opportunity to:
- ‘translate/apply’ abstract theoretical reasoning to practical ethical problems (thereby recognizing the limited use of abstract theoretical approaches to ethical problem-solving)
 - Learn ways of interacting appropriately with various health professionals and patients *qua* health care ethicist
 - Develop appropriate communication skills (e.g., participation in case conferences, bedside teaching rounds)
 - Develop appropriate teaching skills
 - Develop facilitation and mediation techniques
 - Sharpen analytic skills
4. Understanding of one’s emerging professional role. An opportunity to:
- Critically assess personal values and beliefs
 - Critically assess possible professional role(s) in health care ethics
 - Develop personal and professional goals

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:

Course readings to be determined on an individual basis.

PREREQUISITES:

MEHU 6082, MEHU 6315, and consent of the instructor.

ACADEMIC ADVISING:

The instructors are available to each student who may have individual questions or concerns. Meeting times can be arranged after the end of class meetings.

HONOR PLEDGE:

On my honor, as a member of the UTMB community, I pledge to act with integrity, compassion and respect in all my academic and professional endeavors.

Signing the honor pledge at the end of your papers attests that you have not received help from anyone else in writing or editing your essay and that you have observed accepted scholarly practices of using quotation marks around language that is not your own and providing appropriate citations for referring to others’ ideas.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Grading will be based on practicum performance, project presentations, and a written essay.

APPEALING A GRADE:

Any appeals for grading changes must be submitted to the instructors responsible for the writing and grading of the question within 5 business days after the return of the graded assessment to the student. The instructors must report any grade changes to the course director.