



Course Code MED-105	Course Title Medical Ethics	ECTS Credits 6
School Medical School	Semester Fall (Semester 1)	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field Medicine	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course Undergraduate	Year of Study 1 st	Lecturer(s) Dr Julia Hynes
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

This course introduces first year medical students to the field of medical ethics. The objective of the course is to convey to students the pivotal role ethics holds in medical practice. It introduces the key underlying ethical principles required in medicine. The application of these principles will be brought to life through case based learning (CBL) and additionally through clinical placements from the second year of the course onwards.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

Week 1

Lobs covered during lectures:

1. Define the terms 'Ethics' and 'Ethical Argument'.
2. Outline two reasons why we need an 'Ethical Code' in medical practice.
3. Define the terms 'Human Good' and 'Medical Good'.
4. Explain the moral duty of medical students and Doctors upon encountering 'Unethical Behaviour'.

Week 2

Lobs covered during lectures:

5.
 - a. Examine the statement: We as human beings all have a moral duty to care for our own health.
 - b. Explain how and why medical students and doctors should care for their own health.
6. Consider the Hippocratic Oath in its historical context.
7. Summarize the treatment paragraph and two ethical issues to which the Hippocratic Oath draws attention.
8. Construct an ethical debate on the issue of Abortion.

Week 3

Lobs covered during lectures:

9. Explain the 'Concept of Personhood'.
10. Explain why the 'Concept of Personhood' is important in the Abortion debate.
11. Depict the ethical strands of a Clinical Ethics Case.

Week 4

Lobs covered during lectures:

12. Explain when and why the UNO declaration of Human Rights came in to effect.
13. Define human dignity and explain why it is an important topic in medical practice.
14. Explain why published research is important in an academic discipline.
15.
 - a. Read and understand the main points of one journal article.
 - b. Familiarize yourself with the contents of the 'World Medical Association Medical Ethics Manual'.

Week 5

Lobs covered during lectures:

16. Explain how to initiate a medical interview.
17. Explain why communication skills are important in medical practice.
18. Describe what the WMA Medical Ethics Manual states regarding the medical treatment of prisoners.

Week 6

Lobs covered during lectures:

19. Explain the term 'Ethical Theory' and explain what a 'Foundational Ethic' comprises.
20. Briefly describe 'Virtue Theory' as a foundational ethic for medical practice.
21. Discuss the 'Character of the Doctor' in terms of virtue.

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 7

Lobs covered during lectures:

22. Analyse the Doctor/Patient Relationship in terms of Vulnerable Trust.
23. Briefly describe 'Utilitarianism' as a foundational ethical theory for medical practice.
24. Briefly describe 'Consequentialism' as a foundational ethical theory for medical practice.

Week 8

Lobs covered during lectures:

25. Briefly describe 'Deontology' as a foundational ethical theory for medical practice.
26. Define the 'Four Principles' approach in medical practice.

Week 9

Lobs covered during lectures:

No MED-105 Sessions completed during this week.

Week 10

LOB covered during week

27. Resolve an ethical dilemma using the 'Four Principles'.
28. Define 'Informed Consent' and list the steps as to how it is obtained in medical practice.
29. Outline the ethical arguments surrounding the 'Duty of Confidentiality' in medical practice.
30. Outline the medical law regarding 'Confidentiality' in one country.
31. Explain the concept of 'Capacity'.
32. Describe in detail how to assess the 'Capacity' of a patient.
33. Describe the composition and functions of a Clinical Ethics Committee.

Week 11

Lobs covered during lectures(oral debate to take place throughout this week)

34. Research, compile and take part in a clinical ethics oral presentation.
35. Summarise the ethical issues surrounding organ donation.
36. Explain the main provisions in the Human Tissue Act of 2004 with regards Organ Donation.

Week 12

Lobs covered during lectures:

37. Name one country in which Physician Assisted Suicide is legal.
38. Name one country in which Physician Assisted Suicide is illegal.
39. Analyse the ethical arguments for and against Physician Assisted Suicide.
40. Outline two ethical issues which may arise in End of Life Care.
41. List the moral precepts of the 'Doctrine of Double Effect'.
42. Explain how the 'Doctrine of Double Effect' is utilised in medical practice regarding the use of pain management.

Course Contents:

(Topics covered in lectures)

- An Introduction to Ethics
- Ethics in Medical Practice
- The Absence of Ethics in Medical Practice: Consequences
- Self-Care and the Professional: The Medical Student and the Qualified Doctor I & II
- The History and the Content of the Hippocratic Oath
- Abortion: Ethical and Legal Issues & The Concept of Personhood
- Views on Personhood and their Implications for Medical Practice
- Human Dignity in Medical Practice
- Case Based Learning
- Protecting Human Dignity and the UNO Declaration of Human Rights I & II
- The Journal of Medical Education: Introduction to Journal Reading and the World Medical

- Association Manual for Medical Ethics
- Initiating a Medical Interview: Part 1 (Dr Theano Kalavana)
 - Initiating a Medical Interview: Part 2 The importance of Communication Skills in Medical Practice (Dr Theano Kalavana)
 - Foundations for Medical Practice: Ethical Theories
 - Virtue Theory: One Foundational Ethic for Medical Practice
 - The Character of the Doctor and the Doctor/Patient Relationship
 - Utilitarianism
 - Consequentialism
 - Deontology
 - An Ethical Framework for Medical Practice: The Four Principles
 - A Case of the Four Principles
 - Consent and Confidentiality I & II
 - Film portraying ethics in practice: Dignity 'A Tale of Two Wards'
 - Clinical Ethics Oral Debate
 - A Case of the Four Cardinal Virtues
 - Capacity
 - Assessing the capacity of a patient in medical practice
 - The Functions of the Clinical Ethics Committee
 - The Ethic Legal Aspects of Organ Donation I & II
 - Physician Assisted Suicide
 - Dignitas
 - End of life Care and the Doctrine of Double Effect

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures

Assessment Methods:

Written Report (paper) (10%), Midterm Exam (30%) and Final Exam (60%). Assessment is by Single Best Answers (SBAs) and Short Answer Questions (SAQs).

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Edition	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Deborah Bowman	The worried student's guide to medical ethics and law	1st Edition	BPP Learning Media	2011	9781445379494

Recommended Reading:

Authors	Title	Edition	Publisher	Year	ISBN
	World Medical Association Medical Ethics Manual		Available online: http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/30ethicsmanual/index.html	2009	
Pellegrino, Edmund	The Philosophy of Medicine Reborn: A Pellegrino Reader	1 st Edition	University Notre Dame Press	2008	978-0268038342
Sugarman, Jeremy & Sulmasy, Daniel	Methods in Medical Ethics 2 nd edition	2 nd Edition	Georgetown University Press	2010	978-1589017016
Watt, Helen	Life and Death in Healthcare Ethics: A Short Introduction	1 st Edition	Routledge	2000	978-0415215732