



MDU 4061

Introduction to Medical Bioethics

Summer 2016

E-learning Canvas Online Course

3 Credit Hours

Course Professor:

Lauren Solberg, J.D., M.T.S., Assistant Professor; Program in Bioethics, Law & Medical Professionalism, Department of Community Health and Family Medicine; Department of Aging and Geriatric Research; Department of Psychiatry

Joseph Thornton, M.D., Adjunct Assistant Professor; Department of Psychiatry

Course coordinator(s):

Danielle Cooke, B.S., Graduate Student, Clinical and Health Psychology & Psychiatry

Primary Contacts:

You can contact the Course coordinator(s) regarding any issues or questions related to the content of the course or grading. It is preferred that you contact the coordinator(s) directly via [Canvas Messenger](#).

Support Services: Problems with the website (such as not being able to log in, not being able to attach a document, not being able to click on a link, difficulties with an exam or quiz, or not being able to view a video or reading) should be directed to the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-HELP. If there is a problem with a video, please 1) alert UF Help, 2) Email Course coordinator(s), then 3) attempt the assignment without the video.

Course Description:

Medical Bioethics provides students with a very intensive review of the dynamic field of bioethics in the areas of medical practice and research. Online videos presented by various experts as well as the recommended readings, offer students the opportunity to learn about many biomedical ethics issues facing our nation and world and the impact of these issues in medicine and research. This course conveys the importance of the integrated and collaborative research and professionalism that one can expect to encounter within the health care and scientific communities. This course will hopefully be one of the many educational experiences that prepare undergraduates for professional studies in the medical sciences.

Course Objectives: After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Outline principles of bioethical decision making

- Describe the principles of informed consent
- Discuss how bioethics impacts medicine and other health care professions

Educational Philosophy: The educational philosophy of the Department of Psychiatry is to provide students with a learning environment that is current, interactive and supportive. The online and unconventional nature of the course provides students with flexibility for listening to videos, submitting assessments, and discussing opinions. The class can be completed without ever setting foot on the University of Florida campus or ever leaving home. With this freedom comes responsibility and expectations. The course is accredited for 3 UF credits and as a result, it requires at least 3 hours per week in direct “contact,” as well as 6 additional hours to complete assignments and course-related research. Due to the online nature of the course, the contact hours have been replaced with online videos and readings. In total, this course should require up to 9 hours per week, just as any other 3-credit course would normally require. Students are asked to check their email at least twice a week (preferably on Monday and Fridays) and to keep an account of all due dates.

E-Learning Canvas Online Course Format: All enrolled students must navigate to UF’s E-Learning server found at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu> and login with their Gatorlink username and password. In order for the course to be delivered properly to your computer, it must be configured. Detailed instructions on how to do this are available on the E-Learning website above and a configuration-checker is available on the login screen. Failure to configure your computer may result in problems such as: not being able to view videos, not being able to click on links and/or readings, or not being able to submit written or extra credit assignments. Only work submitted through the website can be accepted and we will not accept work submitted via email. Please only email submissions to the coordinator(s) after 1) alerting UF Help and 2) taking a screen shot of the difficulty. The course faculty and staff are not able to assist students with computer/website issues. For help with this aspect, please DO NOT email the course coordinator(s) or staff, but rather call the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-HELP.

General Overview of Course Content: The course is divided into 15 modules. Each lesson introduces and overviews a major issue in the field. A typical lesson topic consists of videos, multiple readings, and a short answer quiz. The course also consists of three 500-word discussion posts with two 250-word responses per discussion post. There are three exams throughout the course.

Grading Scale: Final Grades are determined by the following scale and will be posted in the Canvas Gradebook.

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|--------------|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|---|---|
| Grade | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D | E |
|--------------|---|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|---|---|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| % | ≥ 93.00 | 92.99 - 90.00 | 89.99 - 87.00 | 86.99 - 83.00 | 82.99 - 80.00 | 79.99 - 77.00 | 76.99 - 73.00 | 72.99- 70.00 | 69.99 - 65.00 | ≤ 64.99% |
|---|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------|

View the current UF Grading Policy at
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Point breakdown:

Quizzes (15 total worth 10 points each) = 150

Discussions (At the end of each of the three “Overarching Concept” sections of the syllabus, 50 points will be assigned for the completion of one discussion post and each of two responses to other students’ discussion posts) = 150 points

Exams (3 total, 1 for each “Overarching Concept” section of the syllabus) = 150

Optional Extra Credit = Maximum 10 Points

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the course director when requesting an accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>, for information about available resources for students with disabilities. Once you have received your letter from the Dean of Students Office, please contact the Course Coordinator(s) via Canvas Messenger and email a scanned version of your letter from the Dean of Students to ensure that all testing accommodations are made.

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities throughout the semester to earn extra credit. No more than 10 extra credit points can be earned. Attempting these extra credits does not guarantee that you will earn a full bonus. You must complete the tasks thoroughly and exceptionally and the Coordinator(s) will grade them as separate scores. At least two opportunities will be offered in the form of one extra credit discussion post due by the end of Overarching Concept 2, and one extra credit survey offered at the end of the semester, contingent on 50% student completion of the UF Course and Faculty Review.

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Summer 2016 | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Module # | Topic | Due at 8:00AM EST |
| <i>Week 1-4: Overarching Concept 1: Introduction to Bioethics</i> | | |
| 1 | Course Introduction and Syllabus | May 14, 2016 |
| 2 | Principles of Bioethics | May 21, 2016 |
| 3 | Religious and Multicultural Values | May 21, 2016 |
| 4 | Clinical Communication | May 28 2016 |
| | Discussion 1 Due; Exam 1 Due | June 4, 2016 |

| <i>Week 5-11: Overarching Concept 2: Clinical and Research Issues in Bioethics</i> | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| 5 | Beginning of Life Issues | June 11, 2016 |
| 6 | End of Life Issues | June 11, 2016 |
| 7 | Organ Donation and Procurement | June 18, 2016 |
| 8 | Involuntary Treatment | June 18, 2016 |
| 9 | Participation of Human Subjects in Research | June 25, 2016 |
| 10 | Conducting Research with Animals | June 25, 2016 |
| 11 | Scientific Integrity/Research Misconduct | July 2, 2016 |
| | Discussion 2 Due; Exam 2 Due | July 9, 2016 |
| | Extra Credit 1: Discussion Due | July 9, 2016 |
| <i>Week 12-15: Overarching Concept 3: Bioethics and Society</i> | | |
| 12 | Genetics and Society | July 16, 2016 |
| 13 | Drugs and Society | July 16, 2016 |
| 14 | Issues in Pediatrics and Pediatric Research | July 23, 2016 |
| 15 | Internet Ethics | July 23, 2016 |
| | Discussion 3 Due; Exam 3 Due | July 30, 2016 |
| | Extra Credit 2: Course Evaluation and Surveys Due | |

All quiz assessments and discussion assignments are due on the specified Saturday by 8:00 AM EST. Thus, before each Saturday deadline you should submit your quiz and response to the discussion post. Be sure to continue to check your email for updates and announcements. All class materials and quizzes will be opened at least two weeks before the due date. All discussions open at the beginning of each overarching concept. All exams open one week before the due date.

Opinion Disclaimer: Please note that sometimes the professionals being videotaped or the author of an assigned article may offer an opinion about health care, perhaps even a controversial one. We wish to encourage open-minded thinking, evaluation, and critiquing in this course and so we also have discussion posts where you may voice your opinions. However, it is important to recognize that the opinions expressed in the course materials do not necessarily reflect those of the course professors, teaching assistants, the UF College of Medicine, the Department of Psychiatry, or the University of Florida.

Videos: This class seeks to break out of the conventional lecture format by providing brief, targeted videos and readings.

If a video is not opening or playing for you, try clicking the “Open in YouTube” button on the video player. If the video continues to not display, please contact the UF Help Desk at 352-392-HELP for assistance in updating their computer software BEFORE requesting assistance from the Course Coordinator(s).

Required/Recommended Reading: There is no required textbook. All PDF research articles, lecture slides, and other resources (such as website links) listed within each module should be

considered required reading unless otherwise noted. These resources should provide you with enough information on the topic to appropriately answer all quiz and exam questions.

Class demeanor/netiquette: All students should be courteous to each other and to course coordinators and instructors in all their communications, including discussion post assignments. Those found to be disrespectful of others run the risk of point deduction. View a guide for appropriate online communication at <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Students should not upload or duplicate copyrighted information on online class discussion boards without express permission from the copyright holder. Students must complete assignments on time. Check email at least twice a week for course announcements, read and follow directions carefully, be aware of your grades and raise any issues you have in a timely manner.

Quiz-Assessments: All of the lessons contain a quiz located in the Assessments tab consisting of 5 questions each worth 2 pts, for a total of 10 points per quiz. All questions are based on the readings, videos, and web links. They are designed to not only ensure that you have viewed the video and completed the readings, but to also test your ability to apply what you have learned. All quizzes will be graded shortly after the deadline has passed. You should then be able to view your score.

Exams: All of the Overarching Concept sections contain a exam located in the Assessment tab consisting of 25 multiple choice questions each worth 2 points, for a total of 50 points per exam. All questions are based on what you learned from the readings and videos. They are designed to not only ensure that you have reviewed the course material, but to also test your ability to apply what you have learned. All exams will be graded shortly after the deadline has passed. You should then be able to view your score.

Discussion Posts: Discussions will open at the beginning of an Overarching Concept section and close at the end of the section (i.e. Concept Exams 1, 2, and 3). At the end of each Overarching Concept, up to 50 points will be assigned for the completion of a discussion post and two responses to another student's discussion post. This is to promote collaboration and discussion among peers. Discussion posts are designed for students to present an academic argument on different topics. Discussion posts will require research, outside reading, and preparation. Specific topics and the rubric for grading will be presented within the discussion board.

Dispute Deadlines: Students have until quizzes and exams close to post a question number in the "Grading Questions and Disputes" discussion board. Students should only post the question number. Students have two weeks from the date each discussion post grade is released to dispute

the discussion grade. Students may dispute a discussion grade by contacting the course coordinator via canvas messenger. Disputes will not be accepted after this deadline.

Academic Honesty: Online classes are subject to the same guidelines of academic honesty as all on-campus classes. Please review and be familiar with the Student Honor Code, which can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult the instructor or course coordinator(s).

Special Note on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is presenting another’s work as your own. Cheating and plagiarizing are against the University of Florida Student Conduct Code and will not be tolerated. Every submission in this course is checked via Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>), an online service that compares documents with each other and with every page on the Internet as well as with other assignments turned in this and previous semesters. If portions of your document were directly copied and pasted from another student’s assignment (past or present) or from a World Wide Web page, that constitutes plagiarism. Any form of plagiarism will be investigated as set out by the University of Florida Student Conduct Code. Procedures on investigations can be found at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/>. Students in this course caught cheating (copying) and plagiarizing, will be immediately given a failing grade and prosecuted in the UF Honor Court. The reader of your paper should know exactly from where all your outside information originates. It may be acceptable to place a few comments in quotes with a citation, but it is never acceptable to copy and paste a long string of text from a source, even if it is cited and even if you change a few words. Anything from another source that is not in quotations must be paraphrased. Also, please note that UF policies require that you create original work for each course. Thus, students are not permitted to submit papers they prepared previously outside of this class, such as for high school or other UF courses.

Late/Make up policy: Since students are informed of topic areas and deadlines at the beginning of the semester, it is difficult for us to accept late assignments. As previously mentioned, by waiting until the last minute to begin working you may run the risk of computer problems. Websites being down or your personal computer giving you technical problems is not an excuse for late work. For this reason, we strongly suggest working on all assignments and quizzes at least ahead of time to avoid such issues. If you believe you have a legitimate reason for missing work, you may request an extension from the course coordinator(s) before the deadline passes.

In the event of an emergency, where prior approval from the course coordinator could not be obtained, contact the course coordinator as soon as possible. Extensions in these cases may be obtained under extenuating circumstances, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. View the UF policies regarding medical excuse from classes at <http://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/>.

Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course. Evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> and are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be told the specific times when evaluations are open. Summary results of these assessments are available at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.