Course Syllabus

CPH 953 Seminar in Ethical and Moral Decision-making
June - August 2007

Wednesday 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM CPH Room 115 (June 7, 2007)
Tuesday – Saturday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM CPH Room 115 (June 11-15, 2007)
Wednesday 9:00 AM-12:00 noon CPH Room 115 (August 1, 2007)

Contact information

Instructor: James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
121 Washington Avenue, Suite 107
Lexington, KY 40506-0003

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course description

This course provides the opportunity to link academic work in public health decision-making with its application to public health practice and to prepare the learner for the practice of public health decision-making based on ethical and moral principles. This will be accomplished through readings, case studies, exercises, and individual research relevant to the disciplines of the profession of public health decision-making. The period of Nazi Germany 1933-1945 will compose the underlying case study. The seminar will consider in depth the decisions made by Nazi political and military leaders, citizens, religious leaders, concentration camp commanders, guards, and prisoners, physicians, scientists and business leaders. Films will be used extensively in the seminar.

Course prerequisites

Enrollment as a DrPH student or permission of the instructor

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, the learner will:

1. Integrate the theory and science of public health decision-making using ethical and moral approaches and apply it to the practice of public health to improve the population’s health.
2. Implement advanced decision-making approaches to improve the practice of public health.

3. Use critical thinking skills to solve public health decision-making problems.

4. Lead public health and other health professionals in the use of ethical and moral decision-making in Public Health management and practice.

5. Interpret and apply research toward the solution of public health ethical and moral decision-making issues.

6. Prepare students for careers as leaders, thinkers, and teachers in the public health field.

**College of Public Health objectives in health services management**

This course relates directly to the accomplishment of the educational program goals for the Dr.P.H. degree at the University of Kentucky. The Dr.P.H. educational program prepares public health professionals for the highest levels of leadership in public health related careers in both public and private settings. This degree builds upon prerequisite MPH knowledge linking public health theory with practice competencies in the five areas of knowledge basic to public health with specialized knowledge and expertise in one specific professional discipline. The degree prepares the professional to participate in the workforce at a senior leadership level that improves the performance quality of the system as a whole to successfully provide the ten essential public health services.

**Textbooks**


Course requirements and learner evaluation

Course grades will be based upon evaluation of the following activities:
- 100-90=A
- 89-80=B
- 79-70=C

Moral and ethical theories comparison paper

As an opportunity to investigate the ethical and moral theories to be presented in the seminar, each learner will write a 15 page (double-spaced, 12 pt. type, one-inch margins) paper comparing and contrasting the ethical and moral theories presented in the readings. This paper is due by midnight July 8, 2007, and should be transmitted electronically to the instructor at jwh@uky.edu. Papers will be graded and returned to the student electronically. 25% of final grade.

Participation in seminar discussion

This course is a seminar not a lecture course. Individual learner participation is critical to the learning process. This is not a course where you can sit back and listen. The students will prepare two (one – two page double-spaced) cases on ethical and moral decision-making dilemmas which they are confronting or have confronted to be discussed during the seminar. These cases are due by midnight June 10, 2007, in order to make copies for each student prior to the seminar. Discussion and debate of readings and case studies is essential, and will be measured by peer assessment, evaluating quantity and quality of each student’s participation. 25% of final grade.

Integrative ethical and moral decision-making theory and practice paper

Each student will prepare a 20 page paper integrating the theories in the readings as well as the key learning points uncovered during the seminar as applied to their own ethical and moral decision-making dilemmas. The issues discussed may come from a variety of settings including but not limited to the work situation. This paper is due by midnight August 2, 2007 and should be electronically transmitted to the instructor at jwh@uky.edu. Papers will be graded and returned to the student electronically. 50% of final grade.

Instructor expectations
1. I expect you to attend every class session. The components are highly interrelated; missing a class will detract from the learning potential of subsequent sessions.

2. I expect you to be in the classroom and prepared to begin work at the scheduled starting time for each session.

3. I expect you to actively participate in the discussions. This is not the type of class where you can “sit back and listen.”

4. I expect you to submit papers using proper English grammar, syntax, and spelling. You are encouraged to use spell check and grammar check prior to submitting your written work. The Writing Laboratory is available to anyone who may need assistance. Grammar, syntax, and spelling will account for 10% of the grade for written work.

5. I expect (and encourage) you to provide honest and timely feedback regarding the content and process of this course throughout the semester.

6. I expect you during the semester to interactively engage via Blackboard with the other students and the instructor.

7. I expect you to share in the responsibility for making this course an enjoyable and beneficial learning experience.

**Academic honesty**

Academic honesty is highly valued at the University. You must always submit work that represents your original words or ideas. If any words or ideas used in a class assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. Please see the University’s policies concerning the consequences for plagiarism.

**Accommodations**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, submit to me a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (www.uky.edu/TLC/grants/uk_ed/services/drc.html). If you have not already done so, please register with the Disability Resource Center for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

**Inclement weather**

The University of Kentucky has a detailed policy for decisions to close in inclement weather. The snow policy is described in detail at http://www.uky.edu/MicroLabs/documents/p-weather.pdf or you can call (859) 257-5684.
Seminar schedule and topics

June 7       Course Introduction 8-9:30AM
June 10      Cases due
July 8       Moral and ethical theories comparison paper due

Seminar:

June 11     Ethical and moral theories/ Decision-making theories
June 12     Case Studies: Physicians, scientists and business leaders
June 13     Case Studies: Nazi political and military leaders
June 14     Case Studies: Religious leaders and the German populace
June 15     Case Studies: Concentration camp commanders, guards, and prisoners

August 1    Presentation of papers
August 2    Integrative ethical and moral decision-making theory and practice paper due