Fall 2009
Instructor: Janet Allen, jcha@med.umich.edu, office phone 734-764-7481
Office: 2798 School of Social Work Building
Office hours: by arrangement
Class Meets: Tuesdays 6-9 p.m. November 10 – December 8

S.W. 790 010 Minicourse: Ethics in the Medical Setting: Exploring Ethical Dilemmas and Applying Basic Ethical Principles in Decision Making.

GENERAL INFORMATION:
This course will meet five consecutive Tuesday evenings. In class, you will receive:
1. syllabus
2. handouts pertaining to theory and clinical practice.

Although I do not maintain a regular office at the School of Social Work Building, I do have a meeting place here, Room 2798. Please feel free to make appointments with me by email if you have questions or concerns.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This minicourse will begin with a review of the basic ethical principles. Medical ethical dilemmas will be presented for participants to practice applying ethical thinking to medical decision making. Participants will have the opportunity to “be a hospital ethics committee” through guidance of members of University of Michigan’s hospital ethics committees.

OBJECTIVES:
1. Participants will gain knowledge of basic ethical principles.
2. Participants will learn differences in applying these principles based on patient’s age: adult versus child.
3. Participants will practice applying ethical principles to medical case dilemmas.
4. Members of the University of Michigan Hospital ethics committees will demonstrate how ethical principles are applied in making recommendations on referred cases.
5. Participants will “be the ethics committee” to practice material presented.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Good attendance and class participation.
2. Group presentation of “famous” ethical cases.
3. Final case write-up emphasizing skill in applying ethical principles to a medical case dilemma.
**COURSE DESIGN:**

Lecture and class discussion with guest speakers and videos to highlight specific topics. Small group discussion on some topics.

**RELATIONSHIP TO FOUR CURRICULAR THEMES:**

  Multiculturalism and Diversity Themes are addressed through the discussion of worker-client differences and power/privilege differentials based on culture, ethnicity, race, gender, age, and social class. Social system and case examples, possible interventions and readings will reflect this theme.

  Social Change and Social Justice are addressed through discussion of differences between problems that are responsive to interpersonal practice interventions and those which result from poverty, discrimination and disenfranchisement and require systemic as well as individual interventions.

  Promotion and Prevention are addressed through identification of ways to provide early intervention, guidance and advocacy within systems, methods of preventing or mitigating later problems in crisis intervention, and through discussion of intervention theories and health care and social policies which support adaptive responses to crisis intervention in a medical setting that will enhance later adjustment.

**COURSE RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIAL WORK ETHICS AND VALUES:**

Social work ethics and values will be addressed within the course as they pertain to issues related to working with clients and colleagues. The NASW Code of Ethics will be used to give students direction about these ethical issues. In particular, this course will focus on client issues, such as confidentiality, privacy, rights and prerogatives of clients, the client’s best interest, proper and improper relationships with clients, interruption of services, and termination. Issues specific to crisis intervention will be given special attention, such as variations in treatment planning based on individual’s needs and dysfunction, therapist ethical decision making, as well as the impact of the therapist's values and reactions to crisis behavior and adjustment difficulties. In addition, issues that arise when working with colleagues, such as referral, consultation, dispute resolution, and mediation will be discussed. This course will emphasize crisis intervention within the context of Social Work ethics and values.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Good attendance and class participation
2. Participation in group presentation of ethical cases
3. Final case write-up, emphasizing skill in applying ethical principles to a medical case dilemma.

Grading: Grade will be satisfactory or unsatisfactory for the course.
Accommodations for students with disabilities:
If you need or desire an accommodation for a disability, we encourage you to contact us at your earliest convenience. Many aspects of the course can be modified to facilitate participation and progress throughout the course. Resources are available (i.e. services for students with disabilities, adaptive technology computing site, etc.) to make learning more effective for you. To the extent permitted by law, the information will be treated as private and confidential.

Any student who feels that he/she may need an accommodation for any sort of disability, please make an appointment to see me. I can be reached confidentially at my email jcha@med.umich.edu or office phone 734-764-7481.

Religious Observances:
Please notify me if religious observances conflict with class attendance or due dates for assignments so that I can make appropriate arrangements.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Week 4: Students will form small groups and will present a “famous” ethical case to the class.
2. Week 5: Students will independently submit a final case write-up emphasizing skill in applying ethical principles to a medical case dilemma.

Texts are on reserve at the Library.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


SUGGESTED READING:


Articles:


Rhymes JA. Withdrawing Very Low-Burden Interventions in Chronically Ill Patients. JAMA 2000
