Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: PHIL 460

Course Title: Existentialism

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: This course is an investigation of problematic cases in biomedical ethics, with an emphasis on sound philosophical resolution.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior Standing.

Text(s): Any survey of contemporary literature in biomedical ethics.

Most current edition of the following:

Pence, Gregory. Classic Works in Medieval Ethics.

Course Objectives:

- To understand the philosophical issues and problems in biomedical ethics.
- To become familiar with the various attempts to deal with the ethical issues concerning health, medicine, and end of life.
- To evaluate approaches to biomedical ethics in order to formulate a personal approach that is coherent and defensible.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Read classic philosophical prose for critical understanding.
- Understand the issues and basic approaches to biomedical ethics.
- Formalize sophisticated philosophical arguments.
- Identify problems and weaknesses in the basic approaches to biomedical ethics.
- Analyze and provide criticism of sophisticated philosophical arguments found in biomedical ethics.
- Formally present possible solutions to problems found in biomedical ethics.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

- Core Values in Medical Ethics
- End of Life
- Beginning of Life
- Allocation of Scarce Resources
- Medical Testing

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20
Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Mark L. Price

Name ________________________________ Signature ___________________________

Date: March 14, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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