



MAS 606

Ethical and Legal Issues in Chaplaincy (2hrs/3units)

Faculty: Rev. Joy Wyler, J.D.

Contact Information:

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Prerequisites: None.

Content: In this course many ethical and legal issues that arise within ministry as a chaplain are presented and discussed. The primary focus will be on service in a hospital setting, but many of the issues can present in any chaplain setting. Students will gain an awareness of the beliefs and practices of various religions and cultures that may be relevant within these issues. Students will also explore how their personal credo may impact the way they counsel others. Case examples and student discussion will be a large part of this course.

Required Texts

- Purtilo, Ruth. 4th Edition (2005) *Ethical Dimensions in the Health Professions*. Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders. ISBN:10:0-7216-0243-6

Required Materials:

Microsoft Office Power Point software

Recommended Reading:

- Colby, William. (2007) *Unplugged: Reclaiming Our Right to Die in America*. AMACOM
- Fadiman, Anne. (1997) *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux
- Nouwen, H. (1972) *The Wounded Healer*. New York: Doubleday
- Plum, Angela (2003) *An Interfaith Minister's Manual*. Alexander, NC: Mountain Church

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how the legal constraints around consent, records and information sharing and medical treatment impact the options available to healthcare providers and patients.

- Articulate ethical principles and their use in the ethical framework for medical decision-making.
- Evaluate the professional ethical considerations that arise in chaplaincy work and how to maintain personal integrity and well-being.
- Explain the legal and ethical issues in counseling persons and families on issues such as the withdrawal of life support, withdrawal of nutrition and hydration, withholding treatment, organ donation and transplantation, and pregnancy termination.
- Assess the unique needs of diverse religious and cultural groups in relation to these issues.

Class Schedule

Week 1 July 16th and 17th

Introduction and Overview

Ethics and Morality

Reading Assignment: Portilo Chapter 1

Power Point: Theological Ethics

Week 2 July 23rd and 24th

Medical Ethics: Principle based framework for decisions

Reading Assignment: Portilo Chapters 2 & 3

Power Point: 6 Step decision making

Discussion: The case of Elva, #3, page 76

Week 3 July 30th and 31st

Professional Ethics as Ministers and Chaplains

Relationships and Personal Integrity

Reading Assignment: Portilo Chapter 6

Code of Ethics for Unity Ministers

Code of Ethics for Chaplains

Discussion: Professional Ethical dilemmas

Week 4 August 6th and 7th

Confidentiality, Legal and Ethical mandates for chaplains

Consent, Assent and Refusal of Treatment

Termination of Pregnancy

Legal and cultural considerations

Reading Assignment: Portilo: Chapters 9 and 11

Discussion: assigned scenarios

Week 5: August 13th and 14th

Sacraments and Rituals, Ecumenical Prayers

Proselytizing or support, the military's experience

Supporting the staff

Discussion: assigned scenarios

Week 6: August 20th and 21st

Competency and the chaplain's role in assessment

Legal Documents: Federal legislation: State determined DPA, DPAHD, Living Will

Reading Assignment: Study Guide with relevant resources, review of Portilo, pages 222-224

Discussion: Do It Yourself

- Week 7 August 27th and 28th
Organ donation and transplantation and the chaplain's role
Reading Assignment: Study Guide with relevant resources
Discussion: Assigned reports with research
- Week 8 September 3rd and 4th
End of Life Decisions: withdrawing life support vs withdrawing nutrition and hydration
Physician assisted suicide and the Oregon legislation
Brain Death criteria
Reading Assignment: Purtilo Chapter 13
Discussion: The cases of Nancy Cruzan and Karen Quinlan
- Week 9 September 10th and 11th
Futile care vs long-term care in infants and the elderly
Reading Assignment: Purtilo Chapter 11
Discussion: The cases of Baby K and Baby Doe
- Week 10 September 17th and 18th
Grief support, spiritual direction and spiritual counseling
Chaplains in abuse and violence cases
Reading Assignment: Study Guide with relevant resources

Final Paper is due September 18th

Assignments for the Master of Divinity Program

1. Read all assignments
2. Participate in Discussions making meaningful, insightful and respectful contributions and sharing resource material in assigned reports.
3. Write a final paper (approximately 8-10 pages) on the greatest ethical issue facing chaplains today as you see it. Please present the ethical issue and any laws or administrative rules that impact the issue. Your research should include citations from at least 3 sources (in addition to any citations from course texts and recommended reading) and should outline your personal response to the issue. Include a bibliography which does not count as one of your pages.

Grading:

Discussion participation

Total 50 pts

Final Paper

Total 50 pts

90-100 points = A

80-89 points = B

70-79 points = C

60-69 points = D

below 60 = F

Assignments for the Certificate Program

1. Read all assignments
2. Participate in weekly Discussion topics making meaningful, insightful and respectful contributions.
3. Write a Final Paper (approximately 4-6 pages) on the following topic:
From the instructor's list of books and/or films, present a review that outlines the legal and ethical issues presented, the chaplain's role in supporting the patient/family and what insight you have gained about your own chaplain practice from this book/film.

Grading:

Discussion participation

Total 50 pts

Final Paper

Total 50 pts

90-100 points = A

80-89 points = B

70-79 points = C

60-69 points = D

below 60 points = F

All Final Papers should be typed, no more than 12 point font and no more than double spaced. APA citation style and reasonable grammatical accuracy are expected.

Expectations of Students' Discussion Participation

Students are expected to read all assigned material and use the material and their own insights to make meaningful contributions to the course discussions. Classroom participation is essential to effective learning. Participation should be respectful, confidential (do not identify ministers, organizations, ministries or individuals by name), and interactive. Discussion participation is mandatory for all students.

Assignment Policy

Students are expected to view the assignments as part of their ministry and should prepare them with the excellence of their vision for ministry.

A late assignment may have one point deducted for each day past the due date.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. For further information about academic honesty, please review the Unity Institute Catalog and Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to contact the instructor immediately. Any accommodation that is necessary and appropriate must be agreed upon in advance.