COURSE OBJECTIVES:

We will study the basic principles of Biomedical Ethics, moral issues arising from the nature of the physician-patient relationship and health care delivery systems, and several of the moral issues that abound in biomedical ethics (e.g., genetic engineering, organ rationing, surrogate motherhood, etc.).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In order to earn a passing grade in this course, you must take two hour exams, a one hour final exam, and complete a paper on an assigned topic. The first hour exam will be given on February 17 and the second hour exam will be on March 28, both during the regular class time. The final hour exam will be given at the time scheduled by the university. In addition, class attendance is required. Also, discussion questions for readings in the texts and in-class writing assignments will occasionally be given. Failure to take the exams or to submit a paper will result in an automatic 'F' for the course.

Grade Policy:

The hour exams are worth 20% each of the course grade for a total of 60%. The paper is worth 15%. Class attendance and participation counts for 15% of the final grade. The discussion questions and in-class writings count 10%. The discussion questions should be turned in on the day the reading is first discussed.

Class Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what was discussed and what announcements were made. You are expected to stay for the entire class period unless you have made prior arrangements to leave early. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Paper topics:

The paper should be on one of the cases in the Classic Cases text. You should try to reach a policy decision that would serve as a solution to the kind of moral problem raised by the case, or show why no such solution can be practically achieved. There will be a handout on paper guidelines. The paper is due on April 11, 2003.
TOPIC AND READING SEQUENCE:

Introduction to Biomedical Ethics & Ethical Theories
   M&D, The Nature of Biomedical Ethics
   M&D, Recently Dominant Ethical Theories

Basic Principles of Biomedical Ethics
   M&D, The Principles of Biomedical Ethics
   M&D, Alternative Directions and Methods
   M&D, Relevant Concepts and Principles

Physician-Patient Relationship
   M&D, Physician-Patient Models and Patient Autonomy
   M&D, Truth-Telling
   M&D, Informed Consent
   M&D, Determinations of Competence
   M&D, Conflicts of Interest and Managed Care

Suicide, Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) & Active Euthanasia
   Pence, Comas: Karen Quinlan and Nancy Cruzan (Chap. 2)
   Pence, Requests to Die: Elizabeth Bouvia and Larry McAfee (Chap. 3)
   Pence, Physician Assisted Dying: Oregon’s Legalization (Chap. 4)
   M&D, The Morality of Suicide
   M&D, The Morality of Active Euthanasia
   M&D, The Supreme Court, PAS, and Active Euthanasia
   M&D, PAS, Active Euthanasia, and Social Policy

Genetics, Human Reproduction, and the Beginning of Life
   Pence, Assisted Reproduction: Louise Brown and Beyond (Chap. 5)
   M&D, Reproductive Technologies
   Pence, Surrogacy: Baby M (Chap. 6)
   M&D, Gamete Donation and Surrogacy
   M&D, Human cloning
   M&D, Genetic Engineering
   Pence, Letting Impaired Newborns Die: Baby Jane Doe (Chap. 8)
   M&D, The Treatment of Impaired Infants
   Pence, Infants and Medical Research: Baby Fae and Baby Theresa (Chap. 14)

Abortion
   Pence, Abortion: Kenneth Edelin (Chap. 7)
   M&D, The Morality of Abortion
Death and Decisions Regarding Life Sustaining Treatment
M&D, The Definition and Determination of Death
M&D, Competent Adults and the Refusal of Life Sustaining Treatment
M&D, DNR Orders and Medical Futility
M&D, Advance Directives and Treatment Decisions for Incompetent Adults
Pence, Allocation of Artificial & Transplantable Organs: The God Committee (Chap. 13)
M&D, Rationing

Social Justice and Health-Care Policy
M&D, Justice, Rights and Societal Obligations
M&D, Managed Care
M&D, International Models and Perspectives

Guest Lecturers:

The Hospice Alternative: Ray Weglarz, RN
Medical Ethics from the Perspective of a Practicing Physician: Sigurds Janners, M.D.

The Topic and Reading Sequence list may be modified as the course progresses. The professor reserves the right to change the syllabus.

Michigan Technological University complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean for Students (7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).