

Department of Philosophy

Summer 2015

On-Line Course

**PHIL 255
CRN 74040**

Medical Ethics

3 credits

Megan Zwart

5/18/15-6/26/15 (6 weeks)

In this course we will investigate ethical issues that arise in the health care professions. We will consider some key ethical theories and principles including autonomy, justice, beneficence and veracity. We will then move through the life cycle, considering special ethical topics that arise at specific times of life, including beginning of life questions (abortion, reproductive technologies), issues of childhood (children and autonomy), issues surrounding aging (dementia, allocation of resources to elders), issues at the end of life (active and passive euthanasia, palliative care, discontinuing futile care) as well as those issues that arise across the life cycle (allocation of scarce resources). Students will engage with topics and assigned readings through online discussion boards, analytical argument papers, a personal journal and analysis of a self-chosen contemporary case study. Pre-req: PHIL 110