

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: PHI 227

Credits: 3

Course Title: Bio-Medical Ethics

Course Description:

Examines the ethical implications of specific biomedical issues in the context of major ethical systems. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement recommendation for Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:

PHI 227 is an introduction to bioethics that examines the philosophical, medical, legal and cultural dimensions of bioethical issues. After reviewing several of the influential moral theories, the student will apply them to analyzing contemporary bio-medical issues, including questions surrounding life and death, reproductive technologies, genetic choices, use of animals in research, and health care allocation. Course would especially benefit students in allied health programs.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Placement in ENG 111 or placement recommendation for Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Describe the ethical and technical dimensions of biomedical decisions;
- b. Identify alternative perspectives on ethical questions and their ramifications for health care decisions;
- c. Evaluate medical ethical issues involving personal values;
- d. Explain prominent issues in biomedical ethics as situated in a democratic society, including cultural, legal, and religious considerations;
- e. Assess the social influences on biomedical decision; and
- f. Analyze biomedical issues through leading ethical theories.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Leading biomedical issues
- b. Moral theories that address biomedical issues
- c. Bio-medical issues and health care decisions
- d. Social and political contexts for understanding biomedical issues

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: June 23, 2015