

**PHILOSOPHY 135
HEALTHCARE ETHICS:
THEORIES, VALUES, & PRACTICE**

COURSE OUTLINE

Prof. M. Sastri

Office: Nicholson Hall 707

Office hours: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00p.m., Monday to Thursday, or by appointment (e-mail: msastri@stfx.ca).

Required Texts:

Heimir Geirsson & Margaret R. Holmgren (edd.), *Ethical Theory* (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2nd ed., 2010).

Canadian Nurses Association, *Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses* (Ottawa: CNA, 2008).

Grading:

Mid-Term Test	20%
Term Essay	30%
Final Examination	50%

Goal:

Ethical reasoning in healthcare requires an understanding of general ethical principles, the values specific to healthcare workers, and the complexities of specific biomedical problems. The goal of this course is to provide students with a critical basis for ethical reasoning in healthcare by: 1) introducing the four principal philosophical theories of ethics (Consequentialism; Rights and Contractarianism; Duty-Based Ethics; and Virtue Ethics); 2) exploring the fundamental values that all healthcare workers are expected to exercise; 3) examining a number of practical cases in nursing healthcare in the light of these ethical theories and values.

All assignments and tests must be completed in order to receive credit for this course.

Class Attendance:

The texts assigned in this course introduce concepts that are foreign to most of you, and the ideas conveyed in them are difficult to comprehend. These texts can take you into wonderful, new worlds, but you will need help to get there. That help is ready for you in each class, where difficulties in the texts or the ideas will be explained. This help cannot be given if you are not there and ready to receive it. To succeed in this course, you must attend classes and do the assigned readings *before* each class. You will not understand all that is in the readings, but the class session will help you to understand what you cannot on your own.