

care, and biomedical research, we will also explore tools for ethical analysis to understand how ethical principles can be applied to various topics and fundamental questions in bioethics. Perspectives from social science, history, and law also inform the course, which will consider relationships, end-of-life decision-making, human experimentation, reproductive technology, public health, and genetics. Perspectives from social science, history, and law also inform the course, which will consider ethical issues in their social and institutional context.

The course will also examine the relatively new field of bioethics, raising questions about what ethical issues count as ethical ones and exploring the role of ethical expertise in contemporary societies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To understand core concepts of ethical analysis.
- To defend personal decisions in complex moral situations.
- To learn a critical-philosophical *approach* to ethical issues in medicine will allow students to contribute constructively to ongoing debates and discussions.
- To learn to see the existence of ethical issues and separate ethical questions from factual questions.
- To think, Write, and Communicate Critically about ethical issues.
- Understand core concepts of self-government, including rights, duties, public and private goods, pluralism, minority rights, and majority rule, and apply them to understand medical ethics further.

Moses Statement

You must be registered with CSD to receive accommodations. If you are a student with a disability who is requesting accommodations, please contact New York University's Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212.998.4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu. Information about the Moses Center can be found at www.nyu.edu/csd.

The Moses Center is located at 726 Broadway on the 2nd floor.

COURSE POLICIES

- Due to the topics discussed in class, conflicting opinions and thoughts are expected. However, all class discussions should be conducted and presented with the utmost respect for others. (We “*call in*”- no, “*calling out*.”)
- This course consists of lectures, discussions, and ethical reasoning exercises.
- The course will run *asynchronously*.
- If you need help meeting the requirements of this course, please come and speak with me as soon as possible. I will work with you and will remain invested in your success.
- Though I will remain as faithful as possible to this syllabus, I reserve the right to make changes. These will be announced in advance in class and in writing when appropriate.
- This is a tough time; however, you are not alone. I am here for you, and I hope that as the course progresses, we can become a community

to support each other.

Grade Breakdown

Reflections- 30%

- A total of 3 reflections addressing the week's themes/texts.
- You will have to engage with 2-3 texts, provide an analysis, and reflect critically on the broader implications.
- Videos/Lectures/documentaries also count as texts.
- Focus on demonstrating evidence of what you have learned with the application of language and terms of the course.
- Reflect on a range of texts and understandings (do not repeat texts in your reflections).

For example, choose another text you have yet to explore if we have discussed the documentary with discussion questions.

- Do not summarize the readings/texts.
- These submissions are reflections on the texts in conversation *with* the lecture.
- Maximum three (3)pages, minimum two (2).
- Post in the **assignment tab** only.
- **Due Weeks 4, 8, 12**
 - Reflection 1 can address any topic/text from week -1-5
due **February 26, 2023**
 - Reflection 2 can address any topic/text from week -6-10
Due **April 2, 2023**
 - Reflection 3 can address any topic/text from weeks
11-14 **due April 30, 2023**

Homeworks and Ethical Exercises-30%

- Discussion Questions
- Ethical Exercises
- Revised Hippocratic Oath Revision (Due April 6, 2023)

Class Participation -10%

- Responses to Classmates

Final/Illness Narrative- 20%

- You will be required to submit an abstract in **Week 13**.
- It must be approved before you start working on the final.
- You can write a personal illness narrative (your own story) or a patient illness narrative.
- Review *Explainer* on assignment.
- 4-5 pages long. (double-spaced, TNR Font, standard)
- You will read many illness narratives throughout the semester, so you can propose an illness narrative that can be creative or “non-traditional.”

- I am open to creative interpretations of this project. Please feel free to propose an adaptation of this project to highlight your creative skills/interests. Some examples include short documentaries, monologues, or artistic interpretations.

Drugs over Dinner - 10%

- Review *Explainer* on the assignment.
- www.drugsoverdinner.org
- Register on the website.
- DOD will send you a curated selection of texts and prompts, which you will facilitate with your group. You will write a reflection on your experience conducting the exercise, the conversations, and how it shaped your perspective on drugs/addiction.
 - A group can include family, peers, or friends.
 - One other person is enough to complete the assignment.
 - To learn more about this exercise, please watch <http://vimeo/131935139>
- Submit the assignment on Brightspace, assignment tab only.
- 2-3 pages long (double-spaced, 12-point font, TNR)
- If you need help organizing a group, please reach out.

Course Schedule*

Monday- Weekly Check-In Posted on Brightspace

Tuesday- follow the Syllabus

Thursday- follow the Syllabus

Fridays- Assignments/HWs due

Sunday- Class participation responses are due

All deviations or revisions to the schedule will be communicated in writing. The syllabus will then be revised accordingly, and the latest version will be posted on Brightspace.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1-January 24, 2023

Introductions

- Review Syllabus
- Overview of the Course
- Homework- Introduce yourself! Post on the discussion board & assignment tab.

January 26, 2023

Medical Ethics and Bioethics

Lecture

- Introduction to Medical Ethics

Read

- AMA Code of Ethics

- "A Brief Introduction" in *Rethinking Healthcare Ethics* by Stephen Scher and Kasia Kozłowska
- "Everyday Medical Ethics and the Law"

Week 2

January 31, 2023

Read

- "Hippocratic Oath"
- "Methods and principles in Biomedical ethics" by TL Beachchamp

Watch

- *Patch Adams* (1997)

Homework

- Post in the Discussion board tab and the assignment tab (due Friday)
- Respond to 2 of your classmates (due Sunday)

WEEK 3

February 7, 2023,

The Sick Business of (Public) Health

Lecture

- Medical Ethics and Public Health

Read

- "It Saves Lives. It Can Save Money. So Why Aren't We Spending More on Public Health?" by Aaron E. Carroll and Austin Frakt (recommended)
- "The Preventable Tragedy of Polio in New York" by Dhruv Khullar
- "The Chart" by Rafael Campo

Watch

- "Inside an ICU: Through a Nurse's Eyes" by NYTimes

February 9, 2023

Lecture

- Bias

Read

- "A Code of Ethics of Public Health" - editorial
- "Costa Ricans Live Longer than We Do. What's the Secret?" by Atul Gawande
- "The Case for Wearing Masks Forever" by Emma Green

Watch

- "Doctors Explain Why U.S Healthcare Is So Expensive" by VICE News

WEEK 4 Business of Pain

February 14, 2023

Lecture:

- Ethics of Pharma

Read

- “Can What We Eat Affect How We Feel?” by Richard Schiffman
- “Responding to the Pain of Others” by Anne Jurecic

Watch

- “Marketing to Doctors” on *Last Week Tonight*

February 16, 2023

Lecture

- Ethics of Pain Management

Read

- “The Pain Scale” by Eula Biss
- “Ethical and Technical Aspects of Emotions of Create Empathy in Medical Machines” by Jordi Vallerdu and David Casaberta

Watch

- “The Amazing Story of the Man who Gave us Modern Pain Relief” by Latif Nasser (TED Talk)

Week 5-February 21, 2023

Empathy and Care

Lecture

- Doctor/Patient Relationship

Read

- “Doctor, Talk to Me” by Anatole Broyard
- “Doctor, What’s Wrong with me?” by Megan O’Rourke

Watch

- “Can Empathy help us Heal healthcare?” by Adrienne Boissy (TED Talk)

February 23, 2023

Lecture

- Reflective Writing in Medical Ethics

Read

- “The Rights of Machines: Caring for Robotic Caregivers” by David J. Gunkel
- “The Dobbs Decision Has Unleashed Legal Chaos for Doctors and Patients” by Jessica Winter

Weeks 6-February 28, 2022

Racial and Gender Bias in Medicine

Lecture

- Racial Health Disparities

Read

- “How Race Becomes Biology: Embodiment of Social Inequality” by Clarence C. Gravlee

- “What ‘Racism is a Public Health Issue’ Means” by Lila Thulin

Watch

- “Gender and Racial Bias in Medicine” on *Last Week Tonight*
- “Racial Wealth Gap” in *Explained* (recommended)

March 2, 2023

Lecture

- Women’s Health

Watch

- *Unrest* (2017)

Homework

- Respond to discussion questions (due Friday)
- Respond to 2 of your classmates (due Sunday)

WEEK 7

March 7, 2023

Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Care

Lecture

- Mental Illness, Stress, and Stigma

Read

- *Drinking a Love Story* by Caroline Knapp (excerpt)
- “God Knows Where I Am” by Rachel Aviv
- “Argentinidad or Neurosis” by Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo

Watch

- “Mental Healthcare” in *Last Week Tonight*

March 9, 2023e

Lecture

- “The Trauma Episode” in *What is Medical Anthropology?* (Podcast)
Trigger Warning

Read

- “How a Pre-Wedding Diet Led to an Eating Disorder” by Kelsey Herbers
- “A Gun to his Head as a Child. In Prison as an Adult” by Audra Burch

Watch

- “How Childhood Trauma affects Health Across a Lifetime” by Nadine Burke Harris (TED talk)

WEEK 8- March 13-19, 2023 SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9

March 21, 2023

Differences/Disabilities and Medicine

Lecture

- Disability Ethics

Read

- “Waist-High in the World: A Life Among the Nondisabled” by Nancy Mairs
- “What Patients with Disabilities Teach us about the Everyday Ethics of Healthcare” by Elizabeth Pendo (recommended)
- “After a COVID Expert Struggled to Obtain New Treatment for his Patients, He Tweeted a Road Map” by Evans Osnos

Watch

- “I am not your Inspiration, Thank you very much” by Stella Young (TED Talk)

March 23, 2023,

Read

- “I’m not Lazy. I’m Ill” by Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo
- “Blindness” by Jorge Luis Borges

Watch

- *Lives Worth Living* (2011)

Homework

- Respond to Discussion Questions (due Friday)
- Discussion Questions and respond to 2 classmate’s responses (due Sunday)

WEEK 10- March 28, 2023,

Social Determinants, Inequality, and Health Disparities

Lecture

- Social Determinants of Health

Read

- “How Should Physicians Counsel Patients Who Live in Food Deserts?” by Annalyn Skipper
- “Policies to Reduce Food Insecurity: an Ethical Imperative” by Daniel P. Miller & Margaret Thomas (recommended)
- “The closing of the Tops market on Buffalo’s East side has created a ‘food desert’” by Troy Closson

Watch

- “France” in *Where to Invade Next* (2015)

March 30, 2023,

Watch

- *Soul Food Junkies* (2012) - available on Kanopy

Homework

- Respond to Discussion Questions (due Friday)
- Respond to 2 classmate’s responses (due Sunday)
- Food Label Assignment (due Sunday)

WEEK 11- APRIL 4, 2023

Medical Futility

Lecture

- Medical Futility

Read

- “Letting Go” by Atul Gawande
- “My Own Life” by Oliver Sacks

April 6, 2023

Due

- Rewrite the Hippocratic Oath (HW)
(Review Explainer)

Due on April 9, 2023

WEEK 12-April 11, 2023

Structural and Cultural Competency

Lecture

- Structural Competency

Read

- “Culture and Medicine: Reflections on Identity and Community in an Age of Pluralism” by Sylvestre Quevedo (recommended)
- “I don’t mind if you say I have a little O.C.D.” by Maia Szalavitz
- “Living with Voices” by T.M Luhrmann

Watch

- “A Native American Tribe is Using Traditional Culture to Fight Addiction” by VICE News

April 13, 2023

- Drugs over Dinner

WEEK 13-April 18, 2023

Illness Narratives and Storytelling

Lecture

- “Honoring the Stories of Illness” by Rita Charon (TED Talk)

Read

- “Illness as Metaphor” by Susan Sontag (excerpt)
- *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion (excerpt)

April 20, 2023

Lecture

- Writing up the Illness Narrative

Read

- “The Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” by Garcia Marquez
- “Hunger” by Roxanne Gay

Watch

- *No Crying at the Dinner Table* (2021)

Week 14

April 25, 2023

Lecture

- Medical Communication

Read

- “The Use of Force” by William Carlos Williams
- “In the Cemetery where Al Jolson is Buried” by Amy Hempel

Watch

- “Misinformation” on *Last Week Tonight*

April 27, 2023

Lecture:

- Health Equity

Read

- “The Importance of Being” by Abraham Verghese
- “When a Patient is Dying, Food Appears” by Daniela Lamas

WEEK 15

May 2, 2023

Lecture

- Reproductive and Environmental Justice

Read

- “How Black Feminists defined Abortion Rights” by Keanaga-Yamahatta Taylor
- “Self Determination begins in the Womb” by Brianna Theobald
- “Transgender migrant rights, reproductive justice, and the Mexico–US border in the time of COVID-19” by Leandra Hinojosa Hernandez and Sarah De Los Santos Upton

May 4, 2023

Watch

- *After Tiller* (2013)

Homework

- Respond to Discussion Questions (due Friday)
- Respond to 2 classmate’s responses (due Sunday)