

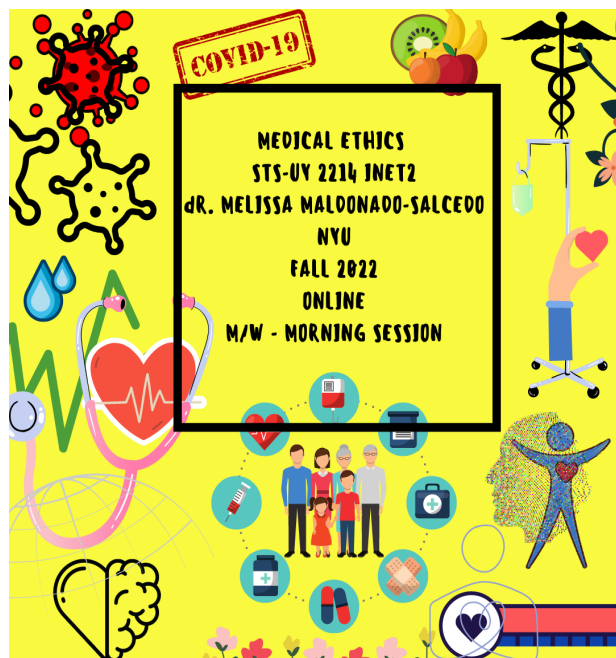
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Office Hours: by Appointment



Why do people in some cultures suffer illnesses caused by fear, nerves, and the evil eye, and what cures exist? Who are shamans, and what roles do they play across cultures? How can specialists trained in biomedicine be more sensitive to their patients' cultural beliefs? What is being done to address the AIDS pandemic? We will explore these questions and many more throughout the semester regarding ethical practice.

In this course, students will learn to think about issues of health, disease, and medicine in cross-cultural and global terms. Ideas about and experiences of health, “disease”, and medicine are profoundly shaped by culture, transnational flows of people, ideas, and resources, histories of colonialism, structural inequalities, and the development of new technologies. For this reason, in today’s rapidly changing world of health and illness, complex ethical issues arise in many contexts—from the private, interpersonal interactions between doctor and patient to the broad, mass-mediated controversies that make medicine headline news.

While this course examines ethical problems and policy issues that arise in contemporary medicine, health care, and biomedical research, we will also explore tools for ethical analysis in order to understand how ethical principles can be applied to a variety of topics and fundamental questions in bioethics. Perspectives from social science, history, and law also inform the course, which will consider ethical issues in their social and institutional context. We will explore problems that arise in several substantive areas, including the doctor-patient relationship, end-of-life decision-making, human experimentation, reproductive technology, public health,

and human genetics.

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

- Understand core concepts of ethical analysis.
- 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 of these issues.
- To learn the ability to see the *existence* of ethical issues and to separate ethical questions from factual questions.
- 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

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. You must be registered with CSD to receive accommodations. 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 and discussions.
- The course will run asynchronously.
- If you are having difficulty meeting the requirements of this course, I urge you to come and speak with me as soon as possible. I will work with you and will remain invested in your success.
- Though I will try to remain as faithful as possible to this syllabus, I reserve the right to make changes. These will be announced in advance in class and 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 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 and provide an analysis and engagement with the texts
- Do not summarize the readings.
- These submissions are reflections on the texts in conversation with the lecture.
- Maximum 3 pages, minimum 2.
- Post in Assignment Tab
- **Due Weeks 4, 8, 12**
 - Reflection 1 can cover any topic/texts from weeks -1-4
 - Reflection 2 can cover any topic/texts from weeks -5-7
 - Reflection 3 can cover any topic/texts from weeks- 8-12

Homeworks and Ethical Exercises-30%

- Discussion Questions
- Assigned Ethical Exercises
- Revised Hippocratic Oath Revision

Class Participation -10%

- Responses to Classmates

Final/Illness Narrative- 20%

- You will be required to turn in an abstract and have it approved before submitting the final project.
- You can choose to write a personal illness narrative (your own story), or you can write a patient illness narrative.
- 3-4 pages long. (double spaced, TNR Font- standard)
- You should also reflect on eliciting and writing someone else's illness experience.
- You will read many different kinds of illness narratives throughout the semester.
- I am open to creative interpretations of this project. Please feel free to propose an adaptation of this project to highlight your skills/interests. Some examples include short documentaries, monologues, or artistic interpretations.

Drugs over Dinner - 10%

- 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. It must be completed with a group (family, peers, or friends. To learn more about this exercise, please watch <http://vimeo/131935139>
- Submit the assignment on Brightspace, assignment tab

- 2-3 pages long (double-spaced, 12-point font, TNR)
- If you have difficulty organizing a group, please reach out.

Course Schedule

Sundays/Fridays- Weekly Check-In Posted on Brightspace

Mondays- Lecture and Notes posted (at latest) before 9 am.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1-September 7, 2022

Introductions

- Review Syllabus
- Overview of the Course
- Homework- Introduce yourself! Post on discussion board.
- Due by September 10, 2022.

WEEK 2- September 12, 2022

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 Kozlowska
- "Principles of Clinical Ethics and their Application to Practice" by Basil Varkey

Wednesday

Read

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

Watch

- *Patch Adams* (1997)

Homework

- Respond to discussion questions and respond to 2 of your classmates.
- Due on September September 19, 2022
- Post in the Discussion board tab and the assignment tab.

WEEK 3-September 19, 2022

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
- "The Chart" by Rafael Campo

Watch

- “Inside an ICU: Through a Nurse’s Eyes” by NYTimes

Wednesday

Lecture: Differences and Possibilities (Public Health Ethics and Medical Ethics)

- Ethical Decision Making

Read

- “A Code of Ethics of Public Health” - editorial
- “Costa Ricans Live Longer than We Do. What’s the Secret?” by Atul Gawande

Watch

- “Marketing to Doctors” on *Last Week Tonight*
- “Doctors Explain Why U.S Healthcare Is So Expensive” by VICE News

Due

- Reflection #1 due on September 26, 2022

Week 4-September 26, 2022

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)

Wednesday

Lecture: Empathy in Medical Ethics

Read

- Chapter 1-3, in the *The Empathy Effect* by Helen Reiss

Weeks 5-October 3, 2022

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*

Wednesday

Lecture: Bias and Women’s Health

Watch

- *Unrest* (2017)

Homework

- Respond to discussion questions and respond to 2 of your classmates

WEEK 6-October 10, 2022

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

Watch

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

Wednesday

Read

- “I’m not Lazy, I’m Ill” by Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo

Watch

- *Who am I to Stop it?* (2016)

Homework

- Respond to discussion questions and respond to 2 of your classmates

WEEK 7- October 17, 2022

Social Determinants, Inequality, and Health Disparities

Lecture: Social Determinants

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

Watch

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

Wednesday

Watch

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

Homework

- Discussion Questions and respond to 2 classmate’s responses
- Food Label Assignment

WEEK 8- October 24, 2022

Medical Futility and Pain Management

Lecture

Medical Futility

Read

- “Letting Go” by Atul Gawande
- “We all Deserve a Death With Dignity” by Jordan G. Teicher
- “My Own Life” by Oliver Sacks

Wednesday

Lecture: Ethics of Pain Management

Read

- “The Pain Scale” by Eula Biss

Watch

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

Due

- Reflection #2 November 1, 2022

WEEK 9- October 31, 2022

Structural and Cultural Competency

Lecture

Structural Competency

Read

- “Culture and Medicine: Reflections on Identity and Community in an Age of Pluralism” by Sylvestre Quevedo
- “Living with Voices” by T.M Luhrmann

Watch

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

Wednesday

- Drugs over Dinner

WEEK 10-November 7, 2022

Illness Narratives and Storytelling

Lecture: Stories and Healing

Read

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

Watch

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

Wednesday

Lecture

- “Writing up the Illness Narrative”

Read

- “Blindness” by Jorge Luis Borges

- “The Very Old Man with Enormous Wings” by Garcia Marquez
- “An Ode to Melancholy” by John Keats

Watch

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

Week 11- November 14, 2022

(Continued)

Lecture: Medical Communication

Read

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

Watch (In Class)

- “Misinformation” on *Last Week Tonight*

Wednesday

Lecture:

Reflective Writing in Medical Ethics

Read

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

WEEK 12-November 21, 2022

Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Care

Lecture: Mental Illness, Stress, and Stigma

Read

- *Drinking a Love Story* by Caroline Knapp (excerpt)
- “Witness Domestic Violence: The Effect on Children” by Melissa M. Stiles
- “God Knows Where I Am” by Rachel Aviv

Watch

- “Mental Healthcare” in *Last Week Tonight*

Wednesday

Lecture: Trauma and Health

Read

- “The Camera My Mother Gave Me” by Susanna Kaysen (excerpt)
- “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)

Due

- Reflection #2 on November 28, 2022

WEEK 13-November 28, 2022

Health Equity

Lecture: Health Equity

Read

- “Life Along a Poisoned River” by Jonathan Blitzer
- “Whose body is it anyway?” by Atul Gawande
- “Close Calls” by Perri Klaus

Watch

- *The Healthcare Divide* in Front Line

Wednesday

Lecture: Ethics of Pharma

Read

- “Can What We Eat Affect How We Feel?” by Richard Schiffman
- “Willie Nelson Marijuana Saved my Life” by Patrick Doyle

Homework

- Rewrite the “Hippocratic Oath” to reflect the issues that you found most important (use 2-3 key texts) - no longer than 2 pages.
- Due on December 5, 2022

WEEK 14-December 5, 2022

(Reproductive) Justice

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

Wednesday

Watch

- *After Tiller* (2013)

Homework

- Respond to Discussion Questions & 2 Classmates Board Posts (Following Class Schedule)

Due

- Abstract for Final due on December 7, 2022

Week 15-December 14, 2022

OPEN OFFICE HOUR

