



DEPARTMENT of

MEDICAL ETHICS & HEALTH POLICY

COURSE OFFERINGS

FALL 2020

GRADUATE

Take a Master of Bioethics course online this Fall!

Fall 2020

BIOE 551 – NARRATIVE ETHICS: HEALTH, MEDICINE, AND LITERATURE

Instructor: Lance Wahlert

Time: Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:00

Location: Online

What is it like to live with a chronic, debilitating, or fatal illness? What does it mean to treat a sick person as a doctor, nurse, or other medical professional? And how does it feel to be a caregiver, witness, or outside party in such circumstances? All of these questions will inform the central query of this course: How do personal narratives inform, explain, or complicate our understandings of the medical world? In recent decades, medical humanities scholars and bioethicists have striven to include the perspectives of multiple persons in the history and storytelling of medicine. Moreover, leading medical, nursing, and public health schools have incorporated narrative studies as a part of the training of their future doctors, nurses, and clinicians. While such strategies have been innovative at the level of revamping scholastic curriculums, they are hardly new in medical history. From the case study to the medical history to the talking cure, storytelling has been a central component in the diagnostic, therapeutic, and pastoral strategies of medical cosmologies for centuries. As a trans-historical study of medical storytelling, this course will be concerned with the power of narratives to bring coherence and meaning to the lives of sick persons, caregivers, and medical professionals at moments of great physical and emotional crisis. Accordingly, this course will consider a range of historical and contemporary topics that speak to the bioethical dilemmas of telling, reading, disseminating, and interpreting medically relevant narratives. While we will largely focus on non-fictional accounts (memoirs, medical records, journals, and testimonials), we will also consider how fictional literary sources (stories, poetry, films, and works of art) explore and affect matters related to the topic of “narrative and bioethics.”

BIOE 553 - History of Bioethics

Instructor: Jonathan Moreno

Time: Mondays, 4:30 - 7:00

Location: Online

This course will take an historical approach to the emergence of modern bioethics, the study of ethical issues in medicine and the life sciences. The course will consider pre-20th century medical ethics; the scandals, tragedies and controversies that motivated the modern field; the institutionalization of bioethics in the academy, government, industry and the military; and the recent growing emphasis on ethics in basic life sciences research and development, including genetics, stem cell biology and neuroscience. Recurring themes will include physician-patient relations, the ethics of human experimentation, military ethics, and human rights theory.

BIOE 575-401 - Health Policy [Cross-Listed as HCMG 250/HCMG 850]

Instructor: Ezekiel Emanuel

Time: Mondays AND Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6:00

Location: Online

The U.S. health care system is the world's largest, most technologically advanced, most expensive, with uneven quality, and an unsustainable cost structure. This multi-disciplinary course will explore the history and structure of the current American health care system and the impact of the Affordable Care Act. How did the United States get here? The course will examine the history of and problems with employment-based health insurance, the challenges surrounding access, cost and quality, and the medical malpractice conundrum. As the Affordable Care Act is implemented over the next decade, the U.S. will witness tremendous

***** For more information and/or to register, please contact Rashon.Clark@pennmedicine.upenn.edu *****



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changes that will shape the American health care system for the next 50 years or more. The course will examine potential reforms, including those offered by liberals and conservatives and information that can be extracted from health care systems in other developed countries. Throughout, lessons will integrate the disciplines of health economics, health and social policy, law and political science to elucidate key principles. This course will provide students a broad overview of the current U.S. healthcare system. The course will focus on the challenges facing the health care system, an in-depth understanding of the Affordable Care Act, and its potential impact upon health care access, delivery, cost, and quality.

BIOE 578 - Bioethics and Human Rights

Instructor: Harald Schmidt and Matthew McCoy

Time: Wednesdays, 4:30 - 7:00

Location: Online

The constitution of the World Health Organization enshrines “the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being.” If such a right exists, it is far from being realized. Worldwide, over 1 billion people are living in hunger. Every day, 21,000 children die before their fifth birthday of pneumonia, malaria, diarrhea and other diseases. Even wealthy countries are marked by significant health disparities. In the U.S., for instance, infants born to African-American women are 1.5 to 3 times more likely to die than infants born to women of other races. This course explores the moral principles and the political and legal structures that inform a human rights approach to health. What sorts of freedoms (e.g., to bodily integrity) and entitlements (e.g., to accessible and affordable health care) does a right to the highest attainable standard of health entail? If countries cannot ensure their citizens’ right to the highest attainable standard of health, what responsibility does the international community bear for intervening? Should undocumented and irregular migrants have the same access to health care as citizens? Is a human rights approach to health compatible with using the market to allocate health-related goods? Finally, what are the limitations of analyzing health and formulating health policy using a human rights framework?

BIOE 590 – Ethics in Mental Healthcare

Instructor: Dominic Sisti

Time: Tuesdays, 4:30 - 7:00

Location: Online

Mental healthcare—which includes, but is not limited to, psychiatry, psychology, and clinical social work—is an especially ethically fraught subdiscipline of the larger medical enterprise. Issues range from garden-variety problems related to informed consent, patient capacity, and clinical professionalism to novel issues related to involuntary treatment, research on mentally ill persons, questions about free will and nosological categories. This course will present a survey of these ethical issues by first introducing foundational concepts from ethical theory and the philosophy of psychiatry and mind. Students will be expected to become conversant in several bioethical approaches and methods and be able to use them to critically examine both historical and contemporary questions in mental healthcare and research.

BIOE 601/401 - 401/402 - Introduction to Bioethics

Instructor: Autumn Fiester

Time: Tuesdays OR Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:00

Location: Online

This course is intended to serve as a broad introduction to the field of bioethics. The course will focus on the central areas in research and clinical ethics: genetics, reproduction, end-of-life, informed consent, the history of human subjects research, and surrogate decision-making. In this course, we will study case analysis, bioethics concepts, relevant legal cases, and classical readings in the field of bioethics.