Overview: In this class we will discuss ethical decision-making in healthcare from the perspective of patients, physicians, researchers, and policymakers. In Part 1, we will mainly address clinical ethics. For example, what can physicians permissibly do and what are patients entitled to request? Do patients have rights to kill themselves or to cut off their limbs? When must a physician respect a patients decision and when is it appropriate to make decisions for patients? In Part 2, we turn to health policy. Do medical innovations like human enhancement and radical life extension threaten our moral equality? What about kidney taxes and organ markets? Is paternalism appropriate in public health or research contexts? Does everyone have a right to healthcare, and if so, how much? Part 3 is devoted to procreative ethics. What do we owe future people? Are there any ethical principles that should inform the kinds of people we create? Is abortion permissible? Is procreation permissible? Together, these readings and discussions will provide an introduction to the range of ethical questions that arise in modern medicine.

Objectives: Students in this class will develop three skills: charitable reading, critical thinking, and clear writing. In class we will reconstruct the best version of the arguments presented in the readings by discussing objections and carefully considering alternative points of view. Students will also learn how to put arguments in premise-conclusion form, use thought experiments and cases to test an intuition, and state a view precisely. We will also discuss good writing, in and outside of class, and by the end of the term students will write an original philosophical essay about the ethics of a particular healthcare decision.

Grading:
Participation: 10%
Quizzes: 10%
Essay #1: 20%
  (5% Outline, 15% Draft)
Essay #2: 40%
  (10% Outline, Research, and Draft, 30% Essay)
Final Exam 20%

All grades are entered as numbers. The number values of letter grades are:

A+ 100-97  A 96-94  A- 93-90  B+ 89-87  B 86-84  B- 83-80
C+ 79-77  C  77-74  C- 73-70  D+ 69-67  D 66-63

Please submit your essays in .doc or .docx formats. I will write comments using the commenting function in Word and email them back to you with grades.
**Due Dates:** Papers and outlines are due on my inbox by 5pm on their due dates. You will get a confirmation from me by 9pm on that day to verify that I received it. Each assignment will be marked down by 1/3 of a letter grade for every late day.

**Participation**

There are two components of your participation grade. (1) Come to class. (2) Participate in a meaningful way. I realize that some people will worry that (2) is too subjective but I assure you it is not. If you (a) participate (b) in a way that is respectful and (c) that is relevant to the reading then you'll be fine. If there is some reason you cannot meet these expectations send me an email and we'll talk about it.

**Quizzes:**

There will be 6 quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will take 5 minutes or so and will consist of one question. Basically, the quizzes are a way of getting you to come to class on time and ensuring that you did the readings. The quizzes start at 3 so if you are late you will miss the quiz. I will count 5 of the quizzes, so if you are inexcusably late or absent for one quiz day or if you totally fail one quiz don't worry because it won't count. If you already missed a quiz and you are going to miss another class let me know in advance and if that is a quiz day I’ll let you know and you can email me your quiz before class starts. If you have an unexpected excused absence let me know and I'll arrange for you to do an additional quiz.

**Essay #1:**

One of our goals in this course will be to further develop your writing abilities. I will distribute handouts on writing in week 2 and then I would like to meet with everyone by September 20 to talk about the first paper. Bring your thesis and outline to this meeting. The essay topic will cover readings from weeks 1-4.

**Essay #2:**

This essay is your chance to show off how much you have learned in the class! You will have a choice of topics and they will all address real-world healthcare questions. Additional research and an original philosophical argument are expected. Meetings with me are not required, but you must send me a thesis, outline, and 1 page summaries of at least four other philosophical readings on your topic by November 27 and if I am worried about your plan I may request a meeting that week. It’s a good idea to come to office hours, talk over email, or schedule a meeting before you commit to a thesis.

**Final Exam:**

The final will test you on the whole semester. It will cover the readings, classroom discussions, and handouts. It will be multiple choice and short answer.

**Readings (All on Blackboard)**

**Week 1: Preliminaries**
August 28 - Ethical Theory
*Beauchamp - Ethical Theory and Bioethics*
*The Hippocratic Oath (Both versions)*

**PART 1 - CLINICAL ETHICS**
August 30 - Do No Harm
*Bradley - Doing Away with Harm*

**Week 2 - Competence and Paternalism**

September 4 - Paternalism
*Buchanan, “Medical Paternalism”*

September 6 - Competence
*Holder, “Minors’ Rights to Consent to Medical Care,”
Davis, Precedent Autonomy and Subsequent Consent*

**Week 3 - Voluntary Suicide**
September 11 - Death By Choice
*The Philosophers Brief*
*Fischer - Suicide assisted by two Swiss right to die organizations*
*Wallace - Infinite Jest on Suicide*

September 13 - Rights to Die
*Velleman - Against the Right to Die*

**Week 4 - Definition of Death and Non-Voluntary Suicide**
September 18 - Survival
*Parfit - Why Our Identity is not What Matters*

September 20 - Non-Voluntary Suicide
*McMahan - Brain Death, Cortical Death, and PVS*

**Week 5 - Impairment and Enhancement**
September 25 - Impairment
*Bayne and Levy - Amputees by Choice*
*Foddy - Addiction and Autonomy*

**Essay #1 Thesis and Outline Due**

September 27 - Enhancement
*Daniels, “Normal Functioning and the Treatment-Enhancement Distinction”
Bostrom, “Human Genetic Enhancement: A Transhumanist Perspective” Reversal Test*

**PART 2 - HEALTH POLICY**

**Week 6 - Policy and Enhancement**
October 2- Transhumanism and Equality
_Buchanan- Moral Status and Human Enhancement_

October 4- Immortality
_Bostrom, “The Fable of the Dragon Tyrant”
Williams- “An Exploration of the ‘Fair Innings’ argument”_

**Week 7- Organs, Tissue, and Markets**
October 9- Organ Confiscation
_Coons- Dead Donor Rule
Fabre- Organ Confiscation_

October 11- Organ Markets
_McGrath “Organ Procurement, Altruism, and Autonomy”
Satz “The Moral Limits of Markets: The Case of Human Kidneys”_

**Week 8- Public Health**
October 16- FALL BREAK

October 18- Health Policy
_Wilson, “Why It’s Time to Stop Worrying About Paternalism in Health Policy”
Freeman- Fast Food: Oppression through Poor Nutrition
Reinarman- Policing Pleasure: Food, Drugs, and the Politics of Ingestion_

**Week 9- Research Ethics**
October 23- Human Experimentation
_DeCastro- Ethical Issues in Human Experimentation
Skloot- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks_

October 25- Access to Experimental Drugs
_Volokh- Abigail Alliance
Schuklenk- AIDS: Individual and ‘Public’ Interests_

**Week 10- Public Health Care**
October 30- Arguments for Health Care
_Daniels- Health Care Needs and Distributive Justice_

November 1- Rationing health care/Discussion
_Singer- Why we must ration health care
Kamm- Letter to Singer_

**PART III- Procreative Ethics**
**Week 11- Future People**
November 6- The non-identity problem
_Parfit- The Non-Identity Problem_
November 8- A Solution to the Problem
Shiffrin- Wrongful Life, Procreative Responsibility, and the Significance of Harm

**Week 12- Choosing Future People**
November 13- “Reverse Eugenics”
NYT- Parents Choose Genetic Defects
Savulescu- Disability: A Welfarist Approach
Antsey- Impaired Children

November 15- Procreative Beneficence
Savulescu- Procreative Beneficence
Sandel- The Case Against Perfection

**Week 13- Abortion and Moral Status**
November 20- Abortion, Conception, and Moral Status
Harman- Creation Ethics
Marquis- Why Abortion is Immoral

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Week 14- Abortion and Infanticide**
November 27- Maternal Decision Making
Thomson- “A Defense of Abortion”
Moller- Abortion and Moral Risk

*Essay 2 Thesis and Outline Due*

November 29- Late Abortion and Infanticide
Warren- The Moral Significance of Birth
Tooley- Abortion and Infanticide

**Week 15- The Risks of Creation**
December 4- Population
Parfit- The Repugnant Conclusion
Conly- The Right to Procreation

December 6- Non-Existence
Benatar- Why it is Better Never to Come into Existence

*Essay 2 Rough Draft Due*

December 17: Final Exam
*Essay #2 Due*