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? 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 addresses 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 commercial surrogacy 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:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis and Outline Meeting 1</td>
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<td>Thesis by February 7, Meeting by February 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2 Outline and Research</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Draft</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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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.

**Reading Responses:**
There are ten reading responses assigned. For each response write 300 words about the reading. In each response, state the author's thesis and one potential objection to that thesis. Each response is 1% of your final grade. Print each response and bring it to class. Late responses will not be accepted. If you need to miss class on a response day you can email it to me before class.

**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 February 14 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 300 word summaries of at least four other philosophical readings on your topic by March 21 and I may then 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.

**Readings**

**PART 1- CLINICAL ETHICS**
**Week 1: Harm and Paternalism**
January 15- Do No Harm
*Bradley- Doing Away with Harm*
*The Hippocratic Oath*
January 17- Paternalism
*Buchanan, “Medical Paternalism”*

**Week 2- Competence**
January 22- Class Cancelled
January 24- Competence
Holder, “Minors’ Rights to Consent to Medical Care,”
Davis, Precedent Autonomy and Subsequent Consent

Week 3- Voluntary Euthanasia
January 29- Death By Choice
Peter Singer: Voluntary Euthanasia: A Utilitarian Perspective
Fisher- Swiss Right to Die Clinics
January 31- Escapist Suicide
Velleman- A Right to Self Termination? (Reading Response #1)
Wallace- Infinite Jest on Suicide

Week 4- Defining Death
February 5- Survival
Parfit- Why Our Identity is Not What Matters
February 7- Non-Voluntary Suicide
McMahan- Brain Death, Cortical Death, and PVS
Essay #1 Thesis and Outline Due

PART 2- HEALTH POLICY

Week 5- Providing Health Care
February 12- Allocating Clinical Services
Persad- Principles of Allocation of Scarce Medical Interventions
Harris- QALYfying the Value of Life
February 14- Arguments for Health Care
Daniels- Health Care Needs and Distributive Justice
Cochrane: After the ACA

Week 6- Impairment and Addiction
February 19- Impairment
Bayne and Levy- Amputees by Choice
Savulescu- Disability: A Welfarist Approach (Reading Response #2)
February 21- Addiction
Foddy- Addiction and Autonomy
Essay 1 Due

Week 7- Organs, Tissue, and Markets
February 26- Organ Markets
McGrath “Organ Procurement, Altruism, and Autonomy”
Satz “The Moral Limits of Markets: The Case of Human Kidneys”
February 28- Organ Confiscation
Fabre- Organ Confiscation (Reading Response #3)
Coons- Dead Donor Rule

Week 8- Public Health and Paternalism
March 5- Health Policy
Wilson, “Why It’s Time to Stop Worrying About Paternalism in Health Policy”
Freeman- Fast Food: Oppression through Poor Nutrition  
March 7- Access to Experimental Drugs  
Volokh- Abigail Alliance  (Reading Response #4)

Week 9- Spring Break  
March 12- Break  
March 14- Break

Week 10- Policy and Enhancement  
March 19- Immortality and Enhancement  
Bostrom, “The Fable of the Dragon Tyrant”  
Bostrom, The Reversal Test  (Reading Response #5)  
March 21- Transhumanism and Equality  
Buchanan- Moral Status and Human Enhancement 
Essay #1 Thesis, Outline and Research due

PART III- Procreative Ethics  
Week 11- Future People  
March 26- The non-identity problem  
Parfit- The Non-Identity Problem  (Reading Response #6)  
March 28- A Solution to the Problem  
Shiffrin- Wrongful Life, Procreative Responsibility, and the Significance of Harm

Week 12- Making New People  
April 2- Procreative Autonomy and Beneficence  
Savulescu- Procreative Beneficence  (Reading Response #7)  
Sandel- The Case Against Perfection  
April 4- Surrogacy  (Possible Guest Speaker!)  
McLachlan and Swales- Babies, Child Bearers, and Commodification  
Anderson- Why Commercial Surrogate Motherhood Unethically Commodities

Week 13- Abortion and Moral Status  
April 9- The Possible Future  
Marquis- Why Abortion is Immoral  
Bradley- The Worst Time to Die  
April 11- The Actual Future  
Harman- Creation Ethics  (Reading Response #8)

Week 14- Maternal Decision Making  
April16- Maternal Rights  
Thomson- “A Defense of Abortion”  
April 18 – Moral Risk  
Moller- Abortion and Moral Risk  (Reading Response #9)

Week 15-Infanticide  
April 23- Late Abortion and Infanticide
Warren- The Moral Significance of Birth
Tooley- Abortion and Infanticide (Reading Response #10)
April 25- Review Session

Essay 2 Due
Final Exam