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? Are people entitled to elective treatments, enhancements, and life extension technology? 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 and medical research.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td><em>See below</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>Thesis Meeting and Outline: September 21</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essay Due: <strong>September 28</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>Thesis and Summaries: <strong>November 9</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Essay Due: <strong>November 16</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Revisions Due: <strong>December 17</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td><strong>December 17</strong></td>
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All grades are entered as numbers.

The numerical values of essay grades are:

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<tr>
<td>A+/A</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/A-</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>B/B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-/C+</td>
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The numerical values for final letter grades are:

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<td>D</td>
<td>66.99-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>63.99-60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participation**

Your participation grade is based on how well you contributed to class discussion and how often you attended class. I posted participation guidelines on blackboard to give you a rough sense of the standards for each grade.

**Reading Responses:**

There are six reading responses assigned and the top five scores will be included in your grade.

- Use Blackboard to submit each response. Submit your responses online before class starts. Late responses will not be accepted.
- Make sure to download the response template so if for some reason you cannot access Blackboard you can email me a response on time.
- Note that midway through the semester the due dates for Group A and B’s responses switches with the dates for C and D’s responses.
  - (A-E) Group A
  - (F-L) Group B
  - (M-N) Group C
  - (O-Z) Group D

**Late Policy for Essays**

- If you need an extension, you must contact me to discuss an extension at least 24 hours before the due date in order to avoid a late penalty.
- Outlines, essays, and revisions are due on my inbox by 11:59 pm on their due dates. You will get a confirmation from me within 24 hours to verify that I received it.
- Essay assignments will be marked down by 1/3 of a letter grade for every late day.
- I will read and comment on late thesis/outlines but the 2/3 grade penalty will still apply.
• I will not accept late submissions for Essay #2 revisions.

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. The essay topic will cover readings from the beginning of the semester.
• I would like to meet with everyone by September 21 to talk about the first paper. Bring your thesis and outline to this meeting. It should include:
  ▪ A thesis and P/C argument
  ▪ A roadmap/outline
  o If you do not meet with me and submit a thesis/outline by September 21 then I will deduct 2/3 of a letter grade from your score on essay #1 (e.g., a B+ paper will become a B-).
  o If you have a busy schedule, I recommend that you sign up early for a meeting time!
• Essay #1 is due on September 28.
  o Please submit your essays in .doc or .docx formats by email. I will write comments using the commenting function in Word.

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 that address real-world leadership questions. Additional research and an original philosophical argument are expected.
• Meetings for Essay #2 are not required, but before November 9 you must send me:
  ▪ A thesis and P/C argument
  ▪ A roadmap/outline
  ▪ Summaries of at least four other philosophical readings on your topic that are not from the syllabus
  o If I am worried about your plan or if I have suggestions, I may request a meeting that week.
  o If you do not send a thesis, outline, and reading summaries to me by November 9 then I will deduct 2/3 of a letter grade from your score on essay #2.
  o It's a good idea to come to office hours, talk over email, or schedule a meeting before you commit to a thesis.
• Essay #2 is due by November 16.
  o Please submit your essays in .doc or .docx formats. I will write comments using the commenting function in Word.
  o Essays are due on my inbox by 11:59 pm the 16th. You will get a confirmation from me within 24 hours to verify that I received it.
  o This assignment will be marked down by 1/3 of a letter grade for every late day.
• You will have the opportunity to revise by December 17.
If you choose to revise, please send in a new clean copy, a ‘track changes’ copy, and a cover letter explaining your revisions and responses to comments.

You can earn up to 2/3 of a letter grade increase by revising your final essay, in addition to the intrinsic rewards of improving your writing and ethical reasoning abilities.

I will not accept late submissions of the revisions.

Final Exam:
The Registrar sets the final exam time and date. The exam will test you on the whole semester. The exam is 10 questions and it will cover the readings, classroom discussions, and handouts.

Academic Integrity:
Students may not use course materials from previous versions of this course. Students should complete every assignment on their own and should comply with the UR honor code. Students may not submit work from previous courses for this course.

Materials:
All readings are on Blackboard. Please print the readings and bring them to class. Aside from the quizzes at the beginning of class, laptops and iPads are not permitted in class without authorization.
Readings:

PART 1: CLINICAL ETHICS

Week 1: How should we reason about moral problems in medicine?
August 28- Medical Ethics and Philosophy
  Savulescu- Bioethics- Why Philosophy is Essential for Progress
August 30- Paternalism
  Buchanan, “Medical Paternalism”
  Hippocratic Oaths

Week 2: Competence and Paternalism
September 4- Children's Medical Rights
  Dare- Parental Rights and Medical Decisions (RR1a)
  Holder- Minor's Rights
  Informed Consent, Parental Permission, and Assent
September 6- Consent through time
  Davis, Precedent Autonomy and Subsequent Consent (RR1b)

Week 3: Voluntary Euthanasia
September 11- Death By Choice
  Peter Singer: Voluntary Euthanasia: A Utilitarian Perspective (RR 1c)
  Fisher- Swiss Right to Die Clinics
September 13- Escapist Suicide
  Velleman- A Right to Self Termination? (RR 1d)

Week 4: Why Defining Death Matters
September 18- Survival
  Parfit- Why Our Identity is Not What Matters (RR 2a)
September 20- Non-Voluntary Euthanasia
  McMahan- Brain Death, Cortical Death, and PVS (RR 2b)
  Coons- Dead Donor Rule

September 21: Meetings/ Essay #1 Thesis and Outline Due

PART 2- HEALTH POLICY

Week 5- Providing Health Care
September 25- Allocating Clinical Services
  Persad- Principles of Allocation of Scarce Interventions (RR 2c)
  Harris- QALYfying the Value of Life
September 27- Arguments for Health Care
  Daniels- Health Care Needs and Distributive Justice
  Cochrane: After the ACA (RR 2d)

September 28: Essay #1 Due
Week 6- Impairment and Addiction
October 2 - Impairment
Bayne and Levy- Amputees by Choice (RR 3a)
Savulescu- Disability: A Welfarist Approach

October 4- Addiction
Foddy- Addiction and Autonomy (RR 3b)

Week 7- Organs, Tissue, and Markets
October 9- Organ Markets
McGrath “Organ Procurement, Altruism, and Autonomy” (RR 3c)
Satz “The Moral Limits of Markets: The Case of Human Kidneys”

October 11- Organ Confiscation
Fabre- Organ Confiscation (RR 3d)

Week 8- Public Health and Paternalism
October 16- Fall Break!
October 18- Health Policy
Wilson, “Why It’s Time to Stop Worrying About Paternalism in Health Policy” (RR 4a)
Freeman: “Fast Food: Oppression through poor nutrition” (RR4b)

PART III- Procreative Ethics

Week 9: Enhancement
October 23- The non-identity problem
Parfit- The Non-Identity Problem (RR 4c)

October 25- A Solution to the Problem
Shiffrin- Wrongful Life, Procreative Responsibility, and the Significance of Harm (RR 4d)

Week 10: Future People
October 30- Cognitive Enhancement and Immortality
Bostrom, The Reversal Test (RR 5b)
Bostrom, “The Fable of the Dragon Tyrant”

November 1- Procreation and Enhancement
Sandel- The Case Against Perfection
Savulescu- Procreative Beneficence (RR 5a)

Week 11: Making New People
November 6- Transhumanism and Equality
Buchanan- Moral Status and Human Enhancement (RR 5d)

November 8- Assisted Reproduction
McLachlan and Swales- Babies, Child Bearers, and Commodification
Anderson- Commercial Surrogate Motherhood (RR 5c)
November 9:  *Essay #2 Thesis, Outline, and Summaries Due*

**Week 12: Abortion**  
November 13: Maternal Rights  
*Thomson- “A Defense of Abortion” (RR 6b)*  
November 15: A fetus has moral status  
*Marquis- Why Abortion is Immoral (RR 6a)*  
*Liao- The Basis of Human Moral Status*

**November 16: Essay #2 Due**

**Week 13: Pregnancy and Moral Status**  
November 20- A fetus only has moral status in some cases  
*Harman- Creation Ethics (RR 6dc)*

**November 22- Thanksgiving**

**Week 14: Abortion and Infanticide**  
November 27- Moral Risk  
*Moller- Abortion and Moral Risk (RR 7b)*  
November 29- Late Abortion and Infanticide  
*Tooley- Abortion and Infanticide*  
*Singer- Are Infants Replaceable? (RR 7a)*

**Week 15: Birth**  
December 4: Birth and Infanticide  
*Warren- The Moral Significance of Birth (RR 7d)*  
December 6: Childbirth  
*Woodward: (RR 7c)*

*This syllabus may be revised throughout the semester. Please check Blackboard and your email for updates.*