

LDST 377: Ethical Decision Making in Healthcare

Prof. Jessica Flanigan

Office Hours: Wednesday 3-5, Jepson 119f

Email: flanigan@richmond.edu

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 the ethics of health policy. For example, we will address whether paternalism appropriate in public health or research contexts and discuss whether there is right to healthcare. Part 3 addresses topics in procreative ethics, such as abortion, genetic enhancement, and commercial surrogacy.

Objectives: This course is designed to give students a better understanding of medical ethics and the ethics of public health. The main learning outcomes center on discovery and creation:

- Students will **discover** philosophical perspectives that change the way they think about the ethics of healthcare.
 - Students will develop skills that enable them to develop and evaluate moral arguments. For example, students will learn to assess the soundness and validity of an ethical argument.
 - Students will critically evaluate real-world ethical dilemmas in healthcare in order to better understand concepts like consent, wellbeing, and justice.
- Students will **create** original philosophical essays that address the ethics of healthcare.
 - Students will think in a clear and systematic way about the normative dimensions of their career or personal choices going forward.
 - Students will learn to develop and write an original philosophical argument.
 - Students will learn to revise papers in response to counter-arguments.

Y2K Pedagogy: For the most part, this is a low-tech class. The course does not have a website. Students will read from course packs. Except for the final essay, all assignments will be written by hand. Email is discouraged. If you need to talk to the instructor, please come to office hours or schedule an appointment before or after class.

Assignments

Exams

- Clinical Ethics Midterm (10%)
- Public Health Ethics Midterm (10%)
- Cumulative Final Exam (20%)

Essay (20%)

- Topic Worksheet [10 points]
 - Due in class
 - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.
- Thesis/Outline worksheet + meeting [10 points]
 - Due in person. Sign up for a meeting by the end of week 2.
 - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.
- Sources Worksheet [10 points]
 - Due in class
 - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.
- Rough draft + meeting [50 points]
 - Due in person. Sign up for a meeting by the end of week 10.
 - 3 points will be deducted if you do not schedule a meeting in time.
 - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.

- Final draft [20 points]
 - Due via email at 11:59 on the last day of class.
 - 3 points will be deducted if this assignment is late.

Reading Responses (30%)

- Top 5 clinical ethics responses (10%)
- Top 5 public health ethics responses (10%)
- Top 5 procreative ethics responses (10%)

Engagement (10%)

- Engagement guidelines will be distributed on the first day of class

Academic Integrity:

Students may not use artificial intelligence to assist with any assignments.

Students may not use course materials from previous versions of this course.

Students may not distribute the course materials without authorization.

Students may not record class discussions.

Students may not record lectures without authorization.

Students must complete every assignment on their own unless otherwise specified.

Students must comply with the UR honor code.

Students may not submit work from previous courses for this course.

Laptops, e-readers, phones, and iPads are not permitted in class.

Smartwatches must be silenced in “classroom mode.”

Grades:

Students are encouraged to track their progress in the course by recording their grades.

Students can visit office hours to see a record of their grades.

Final grades are not calculated until the end of the semester.

All graded work will be returned to students, who should keep this work until final grades have been submitted.

Final letter grades correspond to the following numerical values (A+ 100-97; A 96.99-94; A- 93.99-90; B+ 89.99-87; B 86.99-84; B- 83.99-80; C+ 79.99-77; C 77.99-74; C- 73.99-70...)

Materials (provided)

- 3 course packs
- Composition book
- Folder

This syllabus may be revised throughout the semester.

Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
Part 1- Clinical Ethics				
1a	August 26	Intro		
1b	August 28	Ethics Codes	Savulescu	
2a	September 2	Informed Consent	Buchanan	
2b	September 4	Pediatrics	Dare Davis	
3a	September 9	Addiction	Foddy & Savulescu	
3b	September 11	Death	Parfit	Topic Worksheet
4a	September 16	End of Life	Brundy Aviv	
4b	September 18	Euthanasia	Fisher Velleman	
5a	September 23			Midterm #1
Part 2- Public Health Ethics				
5b	September 25	Allocation	Persad et al	
6a	September 30	Disability	Koon	
6b	October 2	Elective Medicine	Bayne & Levy Minerva	
7a	October 7	Health Systems	Horne & Heath	
7b	October 9	Markets vs. Taxes	McGrath Fabre	Thesis/Outline/Meeting
8a	October 14	Fall Break		
8b	October 16	Pandemics	Blumethal-Barby Flanigan	
9a	October 21			Midterm #2
Part 3- Procreative Ethics				
9b	October 23	Nonidentity	Parfit	
10a	October 28	Antinatalism	Benatar	Sources Worksheet
10b	October 30	Pronatalism	Lee & Critics	
11a	November 4	Preimplantation Selection	Savulescu Sandel	
11b	November 6	Enhancement	Bostrom (x2)	
12a	November 11	Surrogate Motherhood	McLachlan Anderson	
12b	November 13	Writing Day		
13a	November 18	Maternal Rights	Thomson	
13b	November 20	Fetal Status	Marquis	Draft/Meeting
14a	November 25	No Fetal Status	Harman	
14b	November 27	Thanksgiving		
15a	December 2	Infanticide	Tooley Warren	
15b	December 4	Procreative Risk	Moller	Final Essay
F	December 8	Review Session		
	December 9			Final Exam