

Biomedical Ethics

Term 1, 2022-2023

In-person Meetings:

Mon: No meetings; Wed: 35 minutes; Fri: 50 minutes

Meetings will not be recorded nor live-streamed.

Overview

Health policy has a significant impact on different aspects of our lives: our well-being, our finances, our life goals, how we relate to ourselves and others, and so on. What makes health policies desirable? And how should we decide which health policy to adopt?

This course approaches these questions from an ethical perspective. It aims to develop your ability to identify morally relevant factors and make ethical judgements on health care issues. It will begin with an overview of a few ethical theories as applied to various health care issues, and will then move on to in-depth discussions of drug legalization, euthanasia, and abortion. There will also be plenty of case study discussions throughout the term. These are great opportunities for you to apply what you learn to analyze problems.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- (1) explain, compare, and apply various ethical theories to analyze and evaluate health care issues;
- (2) make and defend ethical judgements on health care issues;
- (3) explain the relevance of ethics to health care policy in terms of the topics covered in this course.