



"Medical ethics deals with transplants and gene therapy, but not with whether I greet you in a friendly enough manner."

***WS 297M: Morals & Medicine
Television, Doctors, and Ethical Questions***

Spring 2014

Mon, 2:30-5 pm, Bartlett 125

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"Illness is the night-side of life, a more onerous citizenship. Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of well and in the kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use only the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place."

Susan Sontag, Illness as Metaphor

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the field of medical ethics using the popular genre television shows set in hospitals as a jumping off point for discussion. The course examines these shows to explore the constructions of doctors and medicine as well as ethical guidelines in the practice of medicine. Using the tools of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, the course investigates the real life practices of doctors and the U.S. health care system. What ethical and professional guidelines do, don't or should doctors follow? For example, the outrageous practices of Dr. Gregory House in the now ended popular show House M. D., show the strengths and limitations of strict bureaucratic guidelines that can sometimes get in the way of diagnosis and treatment. Using television's doctors this course debates some of the key issues in medical ethics to explore the need for sound ethical principles in the practice of medicine as well as contemporary debates in the field. Some of the issues explored include: the politics of health care including the affordable care act, medicalization of childbirth, doctor/patient confidentiality, racial categories in medicine, the binary sex/gender system, disability, genetic testing (of embryos and adults), abortion, organ transplant, vaccination and more.

II. TEXTS

There is no text book for the course.

All the course readings (or links to readings) are available on Moodle.

MOODLE: We will use Moodle throughout the course. Surprise extra credit assignments, news and information will be posted on Moodle. Once you register for the course, you will automatically be added to the course on Moodle. Use your OIT username and password to sign into the course. Please contact OIT if you have any problems.

Readings are available online on Moodle (organized by week)

Web Articles: URLs are on the syllabus. All Web Articles can also be accessed through Moodle

Medical Ethics in the News! We will email and post on Moodle news stories that pertain to the themes of the class. In addition, you are also required to post articles on the discussion board.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This class involves television clips, course readings as well as systematic debate and dialogue around medical ethics. It is essential that you complete the readings and reflect upon them before coming to class, and be prepared to contribute to the discussion. Every class will focus on the readings assigned for that class as stated in the syllabus. Your attendance and participation are required for the entire session of each class meeting. The format of the class will be primarily a group discussion focused on the themes of the readings. The issues we will be discussing this semester have both academic and personal implications. Throughout the course, we encourage spirited and respectful debate. In order to grapple with this material it is vital that you read the assignments carefully and on time, come to class with questions, opinions, and analyses (agreements and disagreements) -- in other words be prepared to participate in an intellectual debate. Study questions will be distributed regularly to guide your preparation. One educational goal is to help you develop arguments. Throughout the semester we will work to develop arguments and ethical positions in class discussions and written work – you should be able to take a position and use evidence to make a strong case in support of your argument.

GROUND RULES FOR DISCUSSION: During the semester, we will discuss many issues that deal with the complexities of medical ethics. Sometimes, these debates may get heated. In general, we ask that you approach the discussions with openness, curiosity, and respect. Listen--don't speak for others--don't assume a speaker represents an entire group--practice mutual respect. We hope we can create a climate of engaged and intellectual debate without personal attacks.

ATTENDANCE: Your attendance & participation is **required** for the entire session of each class. More than 3 unexcused absences will reduce your grade by at least one letter grade.

GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS: In your writing for this class, you will be asked to respond to the issues and topics we are studying. We want BOTH your opinion and your analysis based on the readings and the class discussions:

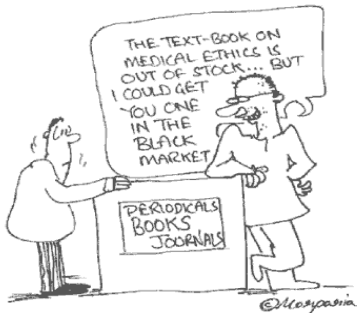
- **One Analytic Paper (15%):** Pick any of the “Medical Ethics in the News” articles posted on Moodle and analyze the article using class readings and discussion. Pick a topic we have already covered. The paper should be 5 pages long (double spaced, standard margins). You must refer to course readings in this paper. Details in class and posted on Moodle. Due March 10.

- ***Final Project (25%):*** A final project, 8-10 pages (details in class and Moodle) is due on April 23. The project will require you to do analytic work focusing on the material you have read for this course, rather than doing library research on topics not addressed in class. The paper is due in class on April 23. The paper will count for 20% of your grade and the evaluation 10% of your grade. A topic and brief abstract are due on April 7.
- ***Peer Evaluation (10%):*** You will exchange your final project paper with someone else in the class and write a 2 page critical reflection on the paper. The original paper and your evaluation of the paper are due in class on April 28.
- ***Discussant and Discussant Essay (10%):*** Once during the semester, each of you will serve as a discussant for the material that week. Discussant should read class readings **PLUS** supplemental readings for that week. Each of you must submit a 3 page essay – a summary of all the readings assigned for that day (due in class). The week before, you will come up with a set of questions to help organize the class discussion and you will help lead the class discussion (with others) that week. You should each post your questions on MOODLE by 5 p. m on the Thursday before the discussion. Do meet as a group with the instructors to plan class discussion. Consult the instructors if you have any questions.
- ***In-Class Writing (10%):*** We will periodically have brief in class writing assignments based on the readings assigned for the class and the class discussion. Your 2 lowest scores will be dropped.
- ***Class Participation (20%):*** Class participation (quality not quantity!) counts for 20% of your grade. Participation includes discussions in small and large groups and all class activities.
- ***Medical Ethics in the News (10%):*** Three times during the semester, you are required to post a story from the news connecting the world outside the classroom to the course materials during that week on Moodle. The post can be in the form of the following: a short personal experience, a video, a photograph, an article from a magazine or newspaper, a news event, an advertisement, or even a description of an artifact that you want to bring into the discussion. Include a brief explanation/comment. **Do at least one posting and two responses prior to spring break. Each of these posts counts for 2% of your final grade.** You should respond to someone else's posting at least 4 times during the semester; each of your postings counts for 1% of your final grade. Details on Moodle.
- ***Extra Credit:*** Throughout the semester, we will post events in the five colleges relating to the concepts and ideas of the course. You can attend an event, write a 2 page summary for a 2% extra credit. The summary must be turned in within one week of the event. You can earn up to 6% in extra credits for the semester.

ACCOMMODATION POLICY STATEMENT: The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS) or the Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (CCPH), please notify us within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements. Accommodations will not be made after the fact. For more information, please contact Disability Services at:

<http://www.umass.edu/disability/>

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC HONESTY: The course will strictly follow the university policy on Academic Honesty: See the University Academic Honesty Policy:
http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/



Summary of Final Grade Computation:

In Class Writing	10%
Analytic Paper (due March 10)	15%
Discussant Essay and Participation	10%
Final Project (Abstract, April 7, paper April 23)	25%
Peer Evaluation (due April 28)	10%
Moodle Discussion Board Postings	10%
Class Participation	20%
Extra Credit	up to 6%

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

Week I: Setting the Stage – Feminism, Medicine, and Television

January 27: Introductions & a discussion of medicine and television over time

- Mark Wicclair, “The Pedagogical Value of House M. D: Can A Fictional Unethical Physician Be Used to Teach Ethics?” *American Journal of Bioethics*, 8(12): 16-17, 2008.
- Howard Trachtman, “The Medium Is Not the Message,” *American Journal of Bioethics*, 8(12): 9-10, 2008.

Week II: Social Construction of Medicine

February 3: Social Location - Why Race/Gender/Class/Sexuality Matters

- *Video: In Sickness and in Wealth*
- Margaret Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins, “Conceptualizing Race, Class, and Gender.” In *Race, Class and Gender*, Margaret Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins eds., 5th edition. Thomson, Wadsworth, 2006: 75-98.
- Ronald Munson, “Foundations of Bioethics: Ethical Problems, Moral Principles and Medical Decisions,” In *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 739-766.

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Catherine Sartin, “If the End Doesn’t Justify the Means, Then What Does?” In *House and Philosophy: Everybody Lies*. Henry Jacoby ed. Wiley, 2009, 164-173.
- “A Renewed Call to ‘Do No Harm’”, *Johns Hopkins Newsletter* October 2011
- [Web] Gardiner Harris, “As Physicians’ Jobs Change, So Do their Politics,” *NYT*, May 30, 2011.
- [Web] Karen Sibert, “Don’t Quit This Day Job,” *NYT*, June 11, 2011.

Week III: Normative, Normal and Normality

February 10: What is Normal?

- Ruth Chadwick and Mairi Levitt, "Genetic Technology: A Threat to Deafness. In *Bioethics: An Anthology*, Helga Huhse and Peter Singer eds., Blackwell Philosophy Anthologies, 2nd ed, 2006, 137-144.
- Darshan M. Sanghavi, "Wanting Babies Like Themselves, Some Parents Choose Genetic Defects" *NYT*, Dec 5, 2006
- Case Presentation: Baby Owens: Down Syndrome and Duodenal Atresia. In Ronald Munson's *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 630-639.
- Harriet McBryde Johnson, "Unspeakable Lives," *NYT*, February 16, 2003

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Kathleen Arnos, "Genetics and Deafness: Impacts on the Deaf community," *Sign Language Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2002, 150-168.
- Rayna Rapp and Faye Ginsburg, "Enabling Disability: Rewriting Kinship, Reimagining Citizenship," *Public Culture* 13(3), 2001: 533-556

Week IV: Re-Constructions of the Body

February 18: The Limits of a Binary Sex/Gender/Sexuality System

- *Video: 1/2000*
- *Video: Diagnosing Difference*
- Suzanne Kessler, "The Medical Construction of Gender," In *Lessons from the Intersexed*, Rutgers University Press, 2002.
- Dean Spade, "About Purportedly Gendered Body Parts" : <http://www.deanspade.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Purportedly-Gendered-Body-Parts.pdf> and <http://genderqueer.tumblr.com/post/413622885/dean-spade-on-body-modification-and-resistance>
- Judith Lorber and Lisa Jean Moore, "Introduction: Key Terms and Issues," In *Gendered Bodies: Feminist Perspectives*. Roxbury, 2007: 1-7.
- Dean Spade: "Resisting Medicine, Re/Modeling Gender," <http://www.deanspade.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/resisting.pdf>

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- The Ethics of Breast Implants: <http://ethicist.www50.a2hosting.com/?p=327>
- Roni Caryn Rabin, "In Israel, a Push to Screen for Cancer Gene Leaves Many Conflicted," *NYT*, Nov 26, 2013.
- Dean Spade, "Intersectional Resistance and Law Reform," *Signs*, Vol 38, No 4, Summer 2013.
- Gynecomastia: <http://www.gynecomastia.org/>
- Jessica Pauline Ogilvie, "The Debate of Circumcising Baby Boys," *LA Times*, July 11, 2011, <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/jul/11/health/la-he-pro-con-circumcision-20110711>
- Mireya Navarro, "The Most Private of Makeovers," *NYT*, Nov 28, 2004: <http://www.urogyn.org/articles/TheMostPrivateofMakeovers.pdf>

Week V: Race Based Medicine

February 24: The category of “race” in medicine

- Film Clips: *Miss Evers' Boys*
- Miriam Fofana, “The spectre of race in American Medicine,” *Medical Humanities* 2013: 39: 137-141.
- Shankar Vedantam, “Racial Disparities Found in Pinpointing Mental Illness” *Washington Post*, June 28, 2005: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2005/06/27/AR2005062701496.html?referrer=emailarticle>
- Dorothy Roberts, “What’s Wrong with Race-Based Medicine?: Gender, Drugs, and Health Disparities,” *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology* 2011: 12(1):1-21.
- Case Presentation: Bad Blood, Bad Faith: The Tuskegee Syphilis Study. In Ronald Munson’s *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 212-215.
- Jonathan Kahn, “Ethnic Drugs,” In Ronald Munson’s *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 241-42

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Lundy Braun *et al*, “Racial Categories in Medical Practice: How Useful Are They?” *PLoS Medicine*, Sept 2007, Vol. 4, Issue 9, 1423-1428:
<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.0040271>
- Anne Fausto Sterling, “Refashioning Race: DNA and the Politics of Healthcare,” *differences*, Volume 15, Number 3, Fall 2004, pp. 1-37.

Week VI: Doctor/Patient Relationship: Confidentiality/Informed Consent/Disclosure

March 3: The Doctor/Patient Relationship

Guest Speaker: Tina Furcolo, O.D, Physician, Family Practice, Valley Medical Group, Amherst

- Walter Glannon, “The patient-doctor Relationship,” In *Biomedical Ethics*, Oxford University Press, 2005: 23-46.
- Case Presentation: Stopping Letrozole Trial: A Case of “Ethical Overkill”? In Ronald Munson’s *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 29-30.
- Feminist Bioethics: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminist-bioethics/>
- Case Presentation: The Vegan Baby. In Ronald Munson’s *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 116-117.

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Margaret Talbot, “The Placebo Prescription” *New York Times Magazine*, January 9, 2000
<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/01/09/magazine/the-placebo-prescription.html?scp=3&sq=placebo%20knee%20surgery&st=cse&emc=eta1>
- Renee Kyle, ““You Care for Everybody”: Cameron’s Ethics of Care,” In *House and Philosophy: Everybody Lies*. Henry Jacoby ed. Wiley, 2009, 125-136.
- Simon Wein, “Is House, M.D. Always Right?” *Palliative and Supportive Care*, 7, 2009, 1-2
http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FPAX%2FPAX7_01%2FS147895150900017a.pdf&code=2e3f5ce4d8757c03d563057d88374391
- Case Presentation: The Death of Robyn Twitchell and Christian Science. In Ronald Munson’s *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 123-125.

Week VII: Abortion/Reproductive; Genetics/Eugenics

March 10: The Morality and Politics of Abortion

ANALYTIC PAPER DUE

- Rosalind Petchesky, "Morality and Personhood: A Feminist Perspective." In *The Politics of Women's Bodies: Sexuality, Appearance, and Behavior*, Rose Weitz, ed., Oxford University Press, 1998, 253-269.
- Monica Flessel and Fred Lorey, "The California Prenatal Screening Program: 'Options and choices' not 'coercion and eugenics,'" *Genetics in Medicine* 2011: 13: 711-713.
- Gregory Pence, "The McCaughey Septuplets: God's Will or Human Choice?" In, *Bioethics: An Anthology*, Huhse and Singer eds., Blackwell Phil. Anthologies, 2nd ed, 2006, 87-89.
- "Case Presentation: Savior Sibling" In Ronald Munson's *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 389-390

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Monica Casper, "Heroic Moms and Maternal Environments: Pregnant Women on the Final Frontier," In *The Making of the Unborn Patient: A Social Anatomy of Fetal Surgery*, Routledge, 1998, 168-203.
- Sally Sheldon and Stephen Wilinson, "Should Selecting Savior Siblings be Banned?" In Ronald Munson's *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th ed, 2008: 416-22.
- David King, "Why We Should Not Permit Embryos to be Selected as Tissue Donors," In *Bioethics: An Anthology*, Helga Huhse and Peter Singer eds., Blackwell Philosophy Anthologies, 2nd ed, 2006, 158-161.

☺ TUESDAY, MARCH 17 – MARCH 21 – SPRING BREAK ☺

Week VIII: Medical Interventions on the Body

Tuesday, March 24: (Monday Schedule) ***Medicalization of Childbirth***

- Video: *The Business of Being Born*
- Katherine Beckett, "Choosing Cesarean: Feminism and the politics of childbirth in the United States." *Feminist Theory*. 6, 2005, 251-275.
- Andrew Goldman, "Extreme Birth" *New York Magazine*, March 22, 2009.

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English, "Science and the Ascent of the Experts," In *For Her Own Good: 150 Years of Expert's Advice to Women*. Anchor Press, 1978: 69-98.
- Claudia Malacrida and Tiffany Boulton, "Women's Perceptions of Childbirth Choices: Competing Discourses of Motherhood, Sexuality, and Selflessness," *Gender & Society* October 2012: Vol 26, No 5: 748-772.

Week IX: Genetic Testing

March 31: Preimplantation and Adult Genetic Testing

- Ruth Hubbard & Stuart Newman, "Yuppie Eugenics," *Z Mag* 2002
<http://www.zcommunications.org/zmag/viewArticle/18020>
- Angelina Jolie, "My Medical Choice," NYT, May 14, 2013.
- Ruth Padawer "The Two-Minus-One Pregnancy", *New York Times Magazine*, August 14, 2011. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/14/magazine/the-two-minus-one-pregnancy.html?emc=eta1>
- "Case Presentation: Huntington's Disease: Genetic Testing and Ethical Dilemmas." In Ronald Munson's *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th ed, 2008: 303-6.
- Gilbert Welch and Wylie Burke, "What's in Your Genes? You don't want to know – Yet." *Washington Post*, May 11, 2008:
<http://www.ashg.org/pdf/newsclip/Washington%20Post%20-%205.11.08.PDF>

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Silja Samerski, "Genetic Counseling and the Fiction of Choice: Taught Self-Determination as a New Technique of Social Engineering." *Signs*, Vol 32, No 4, 2009: 735-761.
- Baruch et al, "Genetic Testing of Embryos: Practices and Perspectives of US IVF clinics," *Fertility and Sterility*, vol 89, no 4, May 2008: 1053-1058.
- Daniel Kevles, "The Genes You Can't Patent," NY Review of Books, Sept 26, 2013:
<http://ipbio.org/pdfs/kevles-genes-you-cant-patent-nyrb-2013.pdf>
- Garland Allen, "Science Misapplied: The Eugenics Age Revisited." *Technology Review* 29, Aug/Sep 1996, pp. 23-31.
- Amy Harmon, "Facing Life with a Lethal Gene," NYT, March 19, 2007:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/18/health/18huntington.html?scp=1&sq=facing%20life%20with%20a%20lethal%20gene&st=cse>

Week X: Epidemic/Contagion/Public Health/Vaccines

April 7: The Politics of Infections

ABSTRACT OF FINAL PROJECT DUE

Guest Speaker: Kathleen M. McGraw, MD, FHM, Chief Medical Officer, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital

- Case Presentation: The Willowbrook Hepatitis Experiments. In Ronald Munson's *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 38-39; 44-51.
- "Refuse Vaccines and Risk Dismal by Doctor," Anita Manning, *USA Today*, updated 11/14/11. <http://yourlife.usatoday.com/health/story/2011-11-14/Refuse-vaccines-and-risk-dismissal-by-doctor/51204016/1>
- Symposium, Liability for Exercising Personal Belief Exemptions from Vaccination, *Michigan Law Review First Impression*, January 2009, Vol. 107:90-114.

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- James Colgrove, "Ethics and Politics of Compulsory HPV Vaccines," *New England Journal of Medicine*, Dec 7, 2006, 2389-2391.
- Laura Carpenter and Monica Casper, "A Tale of Two Technologies: HPV Vaccination, Male Circumcision, and Sexual Health," *Gender and Society*, v. 23, No. 6, Dec. 2009, 790-816.

Week XI: Organs and Transplantation

April 14: Organ Transplants

- Case Presentation: The Prisoner Who Needed a Heart. In Ronald Munson's *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th edition, 2008: 455-456.
- Mark Kuczewski, "The Gift of Life and Starfish on the Beach: The Ethics of Organ Procurement," *American Journal of Bioethics*, Vol 2, No 3, Summer 2002, 53-55.
- M. Campbell et al, "How Young is Too Young to be a Living Donor?" *American Journal of Transplantation*, July 2013: Vol 13, Issue 7: 1643-1649.

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Anne Griffin, "Iranian Organ Donation, Kidneys On Demand" *British Medical Journal*, March 10, 2007. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/reprint/334/7592/502?eaf>
- Ronald Munson, *Intervention and Reflection*, 9th Edition, "Did Steve Jobs Cheat" case presentation, page 621-23
- [Web] Ronald Munson, "The Donors Right To Take A Risk," *New York Times*, January 29, 2002. <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/01/19/opinion/the-donor-s-right-to-take-a-risk.html?scp=1&sq=The%20Donor%27s%20Right%20to%20take%20a%20risk&st=cse>

Week XII: Politics of HealthCare

April 23 (Monday Schedule):

FINAL PROJECT PAPER DUE

Guest: Dr. Jonathan S. Klate, Licensed Acupuncturist; practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine

- Wendy Kline, "Please Include This in Your Book: Readers Respond to Our Bodies, Ourselves," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 79: 2005, 81-110.
- Case Presentation: Robert Ingram: Dilemma of the Working Poor. In Ronald Munson's *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th ed, 2008: 510-11.
- Peter Ubel, "Doctor, First Tell Me What it Costs, NYT, Nov 3, 2013.
- Issues around the Affordable Care Act (TBA – we'll update readings for this)

Supplemental Readings for Discussants:

- Mathew Wynia, "The Short History and Tenuous Future of Medical Professionalism: The Erosion of Medicine's Social Contract." *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, Volume 51, Number 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 565-578
- Peter Singer, "Why we must ration health care," July 15, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/19/magazine/19healthcare-t.html?_r=3&hpw
- Theresa Brown, "Physician, Heel Thyself," NYT, May 7, 2011

Week XIII: Wrap Up and Conclusion

April 28: Conclusion and Summary

FINAL PAPER & PEER EVALUATIONS DUE