

PRVM 867 Ethical Issues in Public Health Spring 2011

Instructor: Summer Johnson, PhD
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Location: TBA
Credit hours: 3
MPH Assistant Director: Tanya Honderick, RN, MS, MPH, BC

Course Description:

Lectures and small group discussions explore public health ethics, social justice and autonomy as they relate to public health practice and health policy. Current issues in health policy are discussed including: the right to health and health care, bioterrorism, and health inequalities, poverty and power. Weekly small group discussions include cases on MCHP, obesity and “fat taxes”, resource allocation, and disparities in infant mortality. Student evaluation is based on class participation, a small group project, and a final paper based upon a case study addressing ethical issues relevant to the student’s area of public health specialization.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Goals:

Students in this course will be introduced to a wide range of ethical issues in public health that arise in the course of public health practice and research. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify these goals and discuss them with peers in an open and respectful dialogue using appropriate ethical terminology and frameworks. Students will be able to define these issues and identify a range of alternatives to the moral problem and to discuss the pros and cons between them using a range of moral perspectives.

Course Objectives:

- Identify and define ethical issues in the context of public health practice
- Analyze moral problems in public health

Textbooks, Materials & Assignments:

Text & Readings: See below.

Assignments

1. Case Description for Final Paper (25 points)

Students will prepare a case study that reflects an ethical dilemma encountered in the course of their public health career. The case study will be no more than 500 words and describe a specific moral problem in a public health setting.

2. Final Paper (50 points)

The final exam will consist of an analysis of an original case study. In their analysis of the case, students will be expected to describe the ethical issues involved, propose 2 or 3 options available to the moral agents involved in the case, and to defend a position in favor of a particular approach on ethical grounds.

3. Influenza Group Project (15 points)

This group project will describe a problem of resource allocation of influenza vaccine and require the group to make policy recommendations based upon a particular moral framework. A written proposal of no more than 500 words will be required from the group in under one week.

4. Class Participation (10 points)

Each week in the online discussion forum, each student will be required to submit a minimum of two, 250 word posts regarding the readings and/or lectures in the course. Students will also be encouraged to contribute current news articles, video and other media to the online discussion board to supplement the course. These contributions, made with commentary, will count toward their required submissions.

Grading Scale:

A = 100-90 points
B= 89-80 points
C= 79-70 points
D= 69-60 points
F= 59 points and below

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week 1 Ethics: Theory and Practice Case: Community Health Education in Niger

Required:

Beauchamp, T. and Walters, L. Contemporary Issues in Bioethics, 6th Edition. CA: Wadsworth Publishers. 2003. Chapter 1, pp. 1-37.

Macklin, R. Against Relativism. NY: Oxford University Press. 1999. Chapter 1, pp. 1-23.

Recommended:

Little, MO. "Why a Feminist Approach to Bioethics?" Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal. 6(1): 1-18.

Christakis, N. "The Distinction Between Ethical Pluralism and Ethical Relativism: Implications for the Conduct of Trans-cultural Research" in Vanderpool, H., Ed. The Ethics of Research Involving Human Subjects. MD: University Publishing Group Inc. 1996. Chapter 11. pp:261-280.

Week 2 Public Health Ethics Case: 3 x 5 Problem

Required:

Kass, N. "Toward an Ethics of Public Health." American Journal of Public Health. 91(11): 1776-1782. 2001.

Childress, J., Faden, R., Gaare, R., Gostin, L., Kahn, J., Bonnie, R., Kass, N., Mastroianni, A., Moreno, J., Nieburg, P. "Public Health Ethics: Mapping the Terrain." *Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics*. 30(2): 170-8. 2002.

Beauchamp, D. "Community: The Neglected Tradition of Public Health." *Hastings Center Report*. 15(6):28-36. 1985.

Week 3 Many Methods, Many Issues

Case: Political Refugees and the Case for Action

(see: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=452749)

Required:

Mann, J. "Medicine and Public Health, Ethics, and Human Rights." *Hastings Center Report*. 27(3)6-13. 1997.

Norman Daniels and James E. Sabin. "Accountability for Reasonableness", Chapter 4. In: *Setting Limits Fairly*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Gostin LO, Gostin KG. "A broader liberty: J.S. Mill, paternalism and the public's health." *Public Health*. 2009 Mar;123(3):214-21.

Week 4 Social Justice and the Right to Health Care

Case: State MCHP Policy

Required:

Daniels, Norman. "Justice, Health, and Health Care." In: *Medicine and Social Justice*. Rosamond Rhodes, Margaret P. Battin, and Anita Silvers, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 6-24. 2002.

Hessler, Kristen. And Allen Buchanan. "Specifying the Content of the Human Right to Health Care." In: *Medicine and Social Justice*. Rosamond Rhodes, Margaret P. Battin, and Anita Silvers, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. pp. 84-96.

Recommended:

Beauchamp, T., and Childress, J. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, 5th edition. NY: Oxford University Press. 2001. Chapter 6.pp.225-282.

Beauchamp, DE. "Public Health as Social Justice." *Inquiry* 13(1): 3-14. 1976.

Week 5 Autonomy, Civil Liberties, and Public Health

Case: Obesity and "Fat Taxes"

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Case for Final Paper

Required:

Childress, J. "The Place of Autonomy in Bioethics." *Hastings Center Report* 20(1)12-17. 1990.

Kersh R. and Morone J. "The Politics of Obesity: Seven Steps to Government Action." *Health Affairs*. 21(6): 142-153.

Resnik, D. "Trans Fats Bans and Human Freedom." *The American Journal of Bioethics*. 2010. 10(3): 3-26.

Week 6 Influenza Group Project - - No Lecture

Case: Ethics & the Allocation of a Scarce Influenza Vaccine

No readings this week. Students may use the lecture and discussion section times for this week to work on the Influenza Group Project

Week 7 The Ethics of Measuring Health

Case: The Use of Cost-Effectiveness in Priority Setting

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Influenza Group Project

Required:

Gold MR, Stevenson D, Fryback DG. "HALYs and QALYs and DALYs, Oh My: Similarities and Differences in Summary Measures of Population Health." *Annu Rev Public Health*, 23:115-34. 2002.

Brock DW. "Ethical Issues in the Use of Cost Effectiveness Analysis for the Prioritization of Health Resources." In *Handbook of Bioethics: Taking Stock of the Field from a Philosophical Perspective*, George Khushf (ed). Springer-Verlag Telos (March, 2004)

Recommended:

Murray CJL, Salomon JA, Mathers CD. "A Critical Examination of Summary Measures of Population Health." In *Summary Measures of Population Health: Concepts, Ethics, Measurement and Applications*. Christopher Murray, Joshua Salomon, Colin Mathers, & Alan Lopez (eds). World Health Organization. 2002.

Week 8 Poverty, Power, and Health Inequalities (PART I)

Case: Priority Setting & the Global Burden of Disease

Required:

Gwatkin DR. "Health inequalities and the health of the poor: what do we know? What can we do?" *Bull World Health Organ*. 2000;78(1):3-18.

Resnik, David. "The Distribution of Biomedical Research Resources and International Justice." *Developing World Bioethics*. 2004; 4(1): 42-57

O'Neill, O. "Public Health or Clinical Ethics: Thinking Beyond Borders." *Ethics and International Affairs*. 16(2): 35-45. 2002. (pages 39-41 only)

Recommended:

Singer, P. "The Singer Solution to World Poverty." *The New York Times Magazine*. September 5, 1999. pp.60-63.

Week 9 Poverty, Power, and Health Inequalities (PART II)

Case: Reducing the Burden of Infant Mortality

Required:

Brock DW. "Health Resource Allocation for Vulnerable Populations." pp. 283-309. In *Ethical Dimensions of Health Policy*. Marion Danis, Carolyn Clancy, Larry Churchill (eds). Oxford University Press. 2002.

Powers, M. and Faden R. "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care: An Ethical Analysis of When and How They Matter." In: Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. 2002. IOM Report.

Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. Executive Summary. Institute of Medicine. 2002.

Week 10 Health Education and Promotion

Case: Old Wine in New Bottles: Health Promotion via the Family Tree
(Based upon Annu Rev Public Health. 2010 Apr 21;31:69-87 1 p following 87. Family history in public health practice: a genomic tool for disease prevention and health promotion. Valdez R, Yoon PW, Qureshi N, Green RF, Khoury MJ.)

Faden RR, Faden AI. "The ethics of health education as public health policy." Health Educ Monogr. 1978 Summer; 6(2):180-97.

Weingarten M, Matalon A.. The ethics of basing community prevention in general practice. J Med Ethics. 2010 Mar;36(3):138-41

Week 11 Harm Reduction Model: Prevention or Enabling Harm?

Case: Vancouver Needle Exchange Program

Irwin KS, Fry CL. Strengthening drug policy and practice through ethics engagement: an old challenge for a new harm reduction. Int J Drug Policy. 2007 Mar;18(2):75-83.

Alderman J, Dollar KM, Kozlowski LT. Commentary: Understanding the origins of anger, contempt, and disgust in public health policy disputes: applying moral psychology to harm reduction debates. J Public Health Policy. 2010 Apr;31(1):1-16.

Pauly B. Harm reduction through a social justice lens. Int J Drug Policy. 2008 Feb;19(1):4-10.

Week 12 Shifting Notions of Health Information and Privacy

Case: Public Health Practice or Research?

Soc Sci Med. 2010 May;70(9):1295-300. Are cancer registries unconstitutional? McLaughlin RH, Clarke CA, Crawley LM, Glaser SL.

J Law Med Ethics. 2010 Mar;38(1):58-63. Ethics, information technology, and public health: new challenges for the clinician-patient relationship. Goodman KW.

Wartenberg D, Thompson WD. [Privacy versus public health: the impact of current confidentiality rules.](#) Am J Public Health. 2010 Mar;100(3):407-12.

Qual Saf Health Care. 2010 May 27. [Epub ahead of print] Ethics, oversight, and quality improvement initiatives. Taylor HA, Pronovost PJ, Sugarman J.

Week 13 Preventive Medicine: The Clash of Two Ethical Systems

Case: Where There's Smoke...

(see Genome Med. 2010 Apr 27;2(4):26. The public health utility of genome-wide association study results for smoking behavior. Furberg H, Ostroff J, Lerman C, Sullivan PF.)

Sugarman J. Commentary: A call for preventive ethics. BMJ. 2009 Mar 10;338:b753.

Jacobson PD, Gostin LO. Restoring health to health reform. JAMA. 2010 Jul 7;304(1):85-6.

Week 14 Environmental Health and Bioethics
Case: Kennedy Krieger Lead Study

Buchanan DR, Miller FG. Justice and fairness in the Kennedy Krieger Institute lead paint study: the ethics of public health research on less expensive, less effective interventions. Am J Public Health. 2006 May;96(5):781-7.

Johnson S. "Disaster in the Gulf: Public Health and Public Responsibility." The American Journal of Bioethics. 10(7): 1-2.

Dwyer J. How to connect bioethics and environmental ethics: health, sustainability, and justice. Bioethics. 2009 Nov;23(9):497-502.

Week 15 Public Health as a Moral Profession
Case: Codes vs. Training

APHA. Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health. Found at:
<http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/1CED3CEA-287E-4185-9CBD-BD405FC60856/0/ethicsbrochure.pdf>

American Medical Association. Code of Medical Ethics: Principles of Medical Ethics. Found online at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/medical-ethics/code-medical-ethics.shtml>

Thomas JC, Sage M, Dillenberg J, Guillory VJ. A code of ethics for public health. Am J Public Health. 2002 Jul;92(7):1057-9.

Slomka J, Quill B, desVignes-Kendrick M, Lloyd LE. Professionalism and ethics in the public health curriculum. Public Health Rep. 2008;123 Suppl 2:27-35.

Core Competencies: Development of instructional objectives is based on the Universal Competencies for public health professionals identified by the *Public Health Faculty/Agency Forum Final Report*, June 1991 and the *Healthy People 2010* goals.

The following Public Health core competencies are addressed in **ETHICAL ISSUES IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

Analytic/Assessment Skills	
1.	Defines a problem
2.	Applies ethical principles to the collection, maintenance, use and dissemination of data and information
3.	Obtains and interprets information regarding risks and benefits to the community
4.	Recognizes how the data illuminates ethical, political, scientific, economic, and overall public health issues
Policy Development/Program Planning Skills	
Communication Skills	
5.	Communicates effectively both in writing and orally, or in other ways
6.	Solicits input from individuals and organizations
7.	Leads and participates in groups to address specific issues
Communication Skills-Attitudes	
8.	Listens to others in an unbiased manner, respects points of view of others, and promotes the expression of diverse opinions and perspectives
Cultural Competency Skills	
9.	Utilizes appropriate methods for interacting sensitively, effectively, and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, racial, ethnic and professional backgrounds, and person of all ages and lifestyle preferences

10.	Develops and adapts approaches to problems that take into account cultural differences
Attitudes	
Community Dimensions of Practice Skills	
Basic Public Health Science Skills	
Basic Public Health Science Skills-Attitudes	
11.	Develops a lifelong commitment to rigorous critical thinking
Financial Planning and Management Skills	
Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills	
12.	Creates a culture of ethical standards within the organization and communities
13.	Helps create key values and shared vision and uses these principles to guide action

University of Kansas Master of Public Health Program Statements

Mission Statement

The mission of the KU-MPH program is to provide teaching, research and service activities that prepare public health practitioners, health care providers, and researchers to develop and apply population-based and individual approaches to maintaining and improving the public's health in the Heartland and the nation.

Confidentiality

Students should not expect that all work they produce in an MPH course is confidential. The KU-MPH program may review course deliverables such as papers, projects, on-line discussion postings and the like with persons other than fellow students in the course and the course instructor. While administering the MPH program, students' work may be shown to KU-MPH faculty and staff, other faculty and accrediting bodies such as the Council on Education in Public Health. Examples of students' work and performance may be used to market the KU-MPH program and KU School of Medicine, and during efforts to secure grant funding to support the MPH program and related faculty research and service projects. Therefore students should not include in their course assignments any sensitive personal information that they wish to keep confidential. Students wishing to discuss a confidential issue with a classmate or the instructor should use telephone calls or personal e-mails for this purpose.

Students with Special Needs

Any student in this course who, because of a disability, needs an accommodation in order to complete course requirements should contact the instructor or the ADA/504 Coordinator (913-588-7813). Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to meet the requirements of this course should contact the instructor within the first week of the semester.

Additional Notes

This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes will be announced.