



## School of Public Health

PBHL 822  
**Public Health Ethics**  
3 credit hours

<b>Instructor:</b>	<b>Michael Yudell, Assistant Professor</b>
<b>Office:</b>	1131 Bellet
<b>Email:</b>	myudell@drexel.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By Appointment (or just knock)
<b>Course Time and Place:</b>	Wednesdays, 2-5, 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	PBHL 801

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

It has been a challenge for public health, a field that encompasses so many disparate disciplines and methodologies, to articulate for itself a common mission and definition. In a sense, what makes public health so difficult to define is that ultimately the field itself is an ideal; a noble, multidisciplinary ambition whose goal is to improve the public's health. Under its umbrella epidemiologists, sociomedical scientists, biostatisticians, environmental health scientists, community and health policy experts, municipal workers, healthcare workers, and ethicists among others work in academia, private enterprise, non-profit, and government to fulfill the field's shared goals. Public health ethics is playing an increasingly important effort in attempting to provide a unifying ethos for the field. Over the past decade, attention to a public health ethics has attracted greater interest by scholars, and witnessed the first published Code of Ethics in the more than 150-year history of the American Public Health Association. While the new literature of public health ethics is diverse in its approach to the subject, the recent scholarship does share a common goal of distinguishing this nascent field from the longstanding work being done in bioethics. Whether bioethical models will be an archetype for this new field, or whether they are, as some have suggested, "the wrong place to start," there is still no consensus on what *is* public health ethics. The emergence of public health ethics has been driven by an equally complex series of events, including newly emerging public health challenges, technological innovations, and an ever-changing social and cultural landscape.

This course will explore the emergence of this field, its philosophical, historical, and political development, its relationship to the field of human rights, and its future. Emphasis will be placed on developing a mastery of the current literature on the subject and on formulating novel approaches in public health ethics. This is a reading and writing intensive course, and students should be prepared to engage in serious dialogue each week in class.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course participants should:

- Have an understanding of the history of the field of public health ethics.
- Be familiar with the philosophical models utilized in public health ethics.
- Be able to distinguish between bioethics and public health ethics.
- Be able to critically appraise the literature in public health ethics.
- Have an understanding of the challenges public health poses to research ethics and IRBs.
- Understand the differences between social justice, communitarian, and human rights approaches in public health ethics.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

This is a reading and writing intensive class that will be conducted as a seminar. Students will be responsible to participate in class discussions each week. Throughout the quarter each student will be responsible to give a short (approx. 5-10 minutes) oral synopsis in class of at least one of that week's readings.

## **BOOKS**

Norman Daniels, Bruce Kennedy, and Ichiro Kwachi. *Is Inequality Bad For Our Health?* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000).

Lawrence O. Gostin. *Public Health Law: Power, Duty, Restraint* (Berkeley: University of California, 2000).

Institute of Medicine, *The Future of Public Health*. (Washington D.C.: National Academy Press, 1988) (can be read online through the Drexel Library website).

Susan Reverby, *Examining Tuskegee: The Infamous Syphilis Study and Its Legacy* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2009).

Albert Jonsen. *The Birth of Bioethics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003 edition).

Madison Powers and Ruth Faden, *Social Justice: The Moral Foundations of Public Health and Health Policy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

David Rothman *Strangers at the Bedside: A History of How Law and Bioethics Changed Medical Decision Making* (New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 2003 edition).

***Additional Course Readings Available on Blackboard***

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Ethics Case Study**

Students will be responsible for developing a short (3-5 pages) ethics case study. The topic must be chosen with instructor's approval.

### **Book Review**

All students will be responsible for writing a short (2-3 pages) academic book review on a subject related to class reading. You may review one of the assigned books. Please look at academic journals for format and style to follow.

### **Final Paper (DrPh Students)**

DrPh students are required to write a final paper on one issue in contemporary public health practice and explain why and how public health ethics is important to this issue. The paper should be between 15-25 pages. Footnotes and a thorough bibliography are required for all papers. Make sure you cite all sources properly and, please, folks, don't use websites as sources unless they are documents or used to refer to specific public health programs. And don't use Wikipedia for anything... ever!!!

### **Final Exam (MPH Students)**

MPH students are required to take a final exam. The exam will be a take home essay exam. Drexel honor code will be strictly enforced for this exam. Questions will be distributed for the exam at the end of class week 9 (May 28<sup>th</sup>) and will be due on Tuesday June 2 by 5pm. There will be no extensions for this exam as your final grade must be submitted on June 5<sup>th</sup> for you to graduate on time.

## **EVALUATION METHODS**

Class participation and face-to-face meetings: 20%

Ethics Case Study: 20%

Book Review: 10%

Class presentation: 10%

Final Paper/Exam: 40%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Readings
1	What is Public Health?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆Institute of Medicine, <i>The Future of Public Health</i> (available online through the Drexel Library website);</li> <li>◆Yudell, M. “Public Health Ethics: An Update From an Emerging Field,” <i>Penn Guide to Bioethics</i> (2009);</li> <li>◆Thomas, et al., “A Code of Ethics for Public Health,” <i>AJPH</i> 92 (2002) 1057-1059;</li> <li>◆Rothstein, M.A. “Rethinking the Meaning of Public Health,” <i>Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics</i> 30(2002) 144-149.</li> </ul>
2	Bioethics and Public Health Ethics: Historical Background and Emerging Paradigms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆Jonsen, <i>The Birth of Bioethics</i>, preface-122, 325-416;</li> <li>◆Rothman, <i>Strangers at the Bedside</i>.</li> </ul>
3	The Legal Basis of Public Health Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆Gostin, <i>Public Health Law: Power, Duty, Restraint</i>; pp.1-112, 309-328, plus individually assigned chapters;</li> <li>◆Colgrove, <i>State of Immunity</i>, chs.1, 5;</li> <li>◆Colgrove, J., &amp; Bayer, R. Manifold Restraints: liberty, public health, and the legacy of <i>Jacobson v Massachusetts</i>. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i>, 95 (2005) 571-576;</li> <li>◆Olick, R.S. (2004). Codes, principles, laws, and other sources of authority in public health. <i>Journal of Public Health Management and Practice</i>, 10, 88-89.</li> </ul>
4	Social Justice, Communitarianism, and Public Health <b>(Book Review Due)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆Madison and Faden, <i>Social Justice</i>, pages TBD;</li> <li>◆Beauchamp, D.E. Community: the neglected tradition in public health. <i>Hastings Center Report</i>, 15(1985).32-38;</li> <li>◆Beauchamp, D.E. Public health as social justice. In Beauchamp, D.E. &amp; Steinbock, B (Eds.), <i>New ethics for the public’s health</i> (pp.101-109). (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999);</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆Daniels, N. Kennedy, B.P., &amp; Kawachi, I. Why justice is good for our health: the social determinants of health inequalities. <i>Daedalus</i>, 128(1999) 215-251;</li> <li>◆Bayer, R., &amp; Fairchild, A.L. The genesis of public health ethics. <i>Bioethics</i>, 18(2004) 473-492;</li> <li>◆Callahan, D., &amp; Jennings, B. (2002). Ethics and public health: forging a strong relationship. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i>, 92, 169-176;</li> <li>◆Kass, N.E. (2004). Public health ethics: from foundations and frameworks to justice and global public health. <i>Journal of Law, Medicine, &amp; Ethics</i>, 32, 232-242;</li> <li>◆Rogers, W.A. (2005). Feminism and public health ethics. <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i>. 32, 351-354..</li> </ul>
5	Human Rights and Public Health Ethics: Competing or Complementary Paradigms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆Farmer, <i>Pathologies of Power</i>, pages TBD;</li> <li>◆Gruskin, S., Mills, E.J., &amp; Tarantola, D. History, principles, and practice of health and human rights. <i>The Lancet</i>, 370(2007) 449-455;</li> <li>◆Gostin, L.O. Public health, ethics, and human rights: a tribute to the late Jonathan Mann. <i>Journal of Law, Medicine, &amp; Ethics</i>, 29(2001) 121-130;</li> <li>◆Singh, J.A., Govender, M., &amp; Mills, E.J. Do human rights matter to health? <i>The Lancet</i>, 370(2007) 521-527;</li> <li>◆Oppenheimer, G.M., Bayer, R., &amp; Colgrove, J. Health and human rights: old wine in new bottles? <i>Journal of Law, Medicine, &amp; Ethics</i>, 30(2002) 522-535;</li> <li>◆Knowles, L.P. The lingua franca of human rights and the rise of a global bioethic. <i>Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics</i>, 10(2001) 253-263.</li> </ul>

6	Ethics, Epidemiology, and Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Readings from Coughlin and Beauchamp, <i>Ethics and Epidemiology</i>;</li> <li>◆ Susser, M., Stein, Z., Kline, J. Ethics in epidemiology. <i>Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i>, 437(1978) 128-141;</li> <li>◆ Readings from Fairchild, Bayer, and Colgrove, <i>Searching Eyes</i>.</li> </ul>
7	Animal Ethics and Public Health (Ethics Case Study Due)	<p><b>(All pages below TBD)</b></p> <p><i>Animal Rights: A Very Short Introduction</i>, by David DeGrazia</p> <p><i>Eating Animals</i>, by Jonathan Safran Foer</p> <p><i>The Ethics of What We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter</i>, by Peter Singer and Jim Mason</p> <p><i>Animal Liberation</i>, by Peter Singer</p> <p><i>Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century</i>, The National Research Council</p> <p><i>Pew Commission Report on Industrial Farm Animal Production</i></p> <p>Bernard Rollin, "The Moral Status of Animals and Their Use as Experimental Subjects," In <i>A Companion to Bioethics</i>, eds. Helga Kuhse and Peter Singer, pp. 495-509</p>
8	IRB's, Research Ethics, & Public Health – Part I Ethical Failures in Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Jones, <i>Bad Blood</i>;</li> <li>◆ Beecher, H.K. Ethics and clinical research. <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>. 274 (1966) 1354-1360.</li> <li>◆ Jonsen, pp.125-165;</li> <li>◆ Colgrove, <i>State of Immunity</i>, pp.218-251.</li> <li>◆ Offit, <i>Autism's False Prophets</i>, pp.176-217.</li> <li>◆ Smith et al., "Media Coverage of the MMR Vaccine and the Autism Controversy..." <i>Pediatrics</i> 121(2008) 836-43.</li> </ul>
9/10	IRB's, Research Ethics, & Public Health – Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A user-friendly guide to IRBS: Byerly, "Working with the Institutional Review Board," <i>AM J Health System Pharm</i> 2009:66(15):176-184.</li> <li>◆ Beauchamp and Childress, "Autonomy," pp. 57-65; "Nonmaleficence," pp. 113-119, "Beneficence," pp. 165-176; "Justice," pp. 225-235</li> <li>◆ Beauchamp and Childress, "The Meaning and Justification of Informed Consent," pp. 77-80. (Optional: pp. 69-77, 80-98.); "The Dual Roles of</li> </ul>

		<p>Physician and Investigator,” pp. 319-327; “Privacy,” pp. 293-303.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Paul Root Wolpe, “Not Just How, but Whether: Revisiting Hans Jonas.” <i>AJOB</i> 2003 3(4): vii-viii.</li> <li>◆ Ruth Macklin, “Dignity is a Useless Concept,” <i>BMJ</i> 2003(327): 1419-20.</li> <li>◆ Rosalind Rhodes, “Rethinking Research Ethics.” <i>AJOB</i> 2005:5(1): 7-28</li> <li>◆ Emanuel, Wendler and Grady, “What Makes Clinical Research Ethical?,” <i>JAMA</i> 2000:283(20):2701-2711.</li> <li>◆ Shaul, “Reviewing the reviewers: the vague accountability of research ethics committees.” <i>Critical Care</i> 2002(6): 121-122.</li> <li>◆ Dresser, “At law: Time for New Rules on Human-Subjects Research?” <i>Hastings Center Report</i> 28(6):23-4.</li> <li>◆ Gordon et al, “The Impact of Escalating Regulatory Requirements on the Conduct of Clinical Research.” <i>Cytotherapy</i> 2003:5(4): 309-313</li> <li>◆ Howard Brody, “Clarifying Conflict of Interest,” <i>AJOB</i> 2011:11(1): 23-8.</li> <li>◆ Wendler, Emanuel and Lie, “The Standard of Care Debate: Can research in developing countries be both ethical and responsive to those countries’ health needs?” <i>AJPH</i> 2004:94(6):923-8.</li> <li>◆ Garrard and Dawson, “What is the role of the research ethics committee? Paternalism, inducements and harm in research ethics,” <i>JME</i> 31(7): 419-23.</li> <li>◆ Cassell and Young, Why we should not seek individual informed consent for Participation in Health Services Research <i>JME</i> 2002:28(5): 313-317.</li> </ul>

## DREXEL UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**Disability Policy:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations and services at Drexel University need to present a current accommodation verification letter (“AVL”) to faculty before

accommodations can be made. AVL's are issued by the Office of Disability Services ("ODS"). For additional information, contact the ODS at [www.drexel.edu/edt/disability](http://www.drexel.edu/edt/disability), 3201 Arch Street., Ste. 210, Philadelphia, PA 19104, V 215.895.1401, or TTY 215.895.2299.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Drexel University is committed to a learning environment that embraces academic honesty. In order to protect members of our community from results of dishonest conduct, the University has adopted policies to deal with cases of academic dishonesty. Please read, understand, and follow the "Academic Honesty Policy" as written in the Official Student Handbook.