

**PHIL 600: Ethics in Health Care**  
**PHIL 490: Seminar in Health Ethics**

Ralph Baergen, PhD MPH

Spring 2010

Thurs 7-9:30 pm

Pocatello: Libr B36

Idaho Falls: CHE 313

Boise/Meridian: Rm 501

Contact Info: 282-3371

[baerralp@isu.edu](mailto:baerralp@isu.edu)

Office: Liberal Arts #247

Office Hours: Mon & Tues 10:30-12am, Thurs 11-12am (I'm often in my office, so feel free to call or stop by outside of my official office hours.)

**Required Text**

F. Mullan, E. Ficklen, K. Rubin (eds) *Narrative Matters*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. ISBN: 0-8018-8479-9

**Course Description & Goals**

Although many courses in medical ethics focus on encounters between individual patients and clinicians, we will be looking mostly at the bigger picture. We will examine various aspects of healthcare systems (e.g., preventive vs. critical care, disease monitoring), ethical issues in healthcare policy (e.g., tobacco control, screening programs), challenges in implementing policies (e.g., public health vs. business, providing international relief & development aid), and even conceptual issues (e.g., understanding health and illness). In the course of this you will be introduced to some of the dominant ethical theories and principles that have been developed in the Western philosophical tradition. By the end of the course, students should be able to identify ethical issues and apply ethical theories and principles to them.

**Course Requirements**

You will be expected to come to the lectures prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

PHIL 490 Students: You will write 2 papers (approx. 3-5 pages, typewritten, double-spaced) and make a presentation to the class.

PHIL 600 Students: You will write 2 papers (approx. 5-7 pages, typewritten, double-spaced) and make a presentation to the class.

Papers: 2 @ 40% ea = 80%

Presentation: 20%

**Course Schedule**

Jan 14: Concepts of Health & Illness

Jan 21: Autonomy, Paternalism, & Public Health

- Tobacco & individual choice

Jan 28: Public Health, Business, & Politics

- The New York Board of Health

- Bubonic Plague in San Francisco

Feb 4: Disease Monitoring & Quarantine

- SARS in Toronto
- AIDS exceptionalism
- Treatment of immigrants

Feb 11: Preventive vs. Critical Care

- Costs & limits of screening
- Screening asymptomatic people
- Prenatal screening
- Genetic screening

Feb 18: Vaccination Programs

- Which risks are acceptable?
- When should refusals be honored?
- HPV vaccines

Feb 25: Allocating Healthcare Resources

Mar 4: Health Disparities in the US

- Health, wealth, & ethnicity

Mar 11: Pharmaceutical Issues

- Creating medical needs
- Neglected diseases

Mar 18: Conscientious Objections & the Duty to Treat

- Pharmacists & Plan B

Mar 25: Spring Break (no class)

Apr 1: Medical Error

- Eric Cropp & Emily Jerry
- People & systems
- Apologies & lawsuits
- Proposed reforms

Apr 8: International Aid & Development

- MSF & the Red Cross
- Military involvement in aid programs

Apr 15: Student Presentations

Apr 22: Student Presentations

Apr 29: TBA