

College of Public Health
University of Georgia

EPID (HPAM) 7700
Public Health and Health Care Ethics
Spring, 2011 Syllabus

Course Information

Instructor: Robert S. Galen, M.D., M.P.H.
Office Location: 130 Paul D. Coverdell Center
Phone: 706-542-5770
Email: Bobgalen@uga.edu
Office Hours: Thursday, 3:00-5:00 PM

Course Meeting Time and Location

Building: Coverdell Center
Room: S341
Day: Tuesday
Time: 3:30 – 6:15 PM

Textbooks and Other Required Reading

Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century. E.E. Morrison. 2nd Edition.
Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2009, pp 441

Reprints and handouts will be provided to students. Current news relating to ethical issues will be sent occasionally via email, which should be monitored weekly. There will be an eLC account for this class with copies of all course materials.

Course Description

EPID (HPAM) 7700 is an introductory survey of some of the ethical issues facing the public health and health care systems in the United States. This course will review a number of topics and challenge students to think critically about them. Classes will consist of lectures and student led discussions. Guest lecturers will be drawn from the academic community, as well as other institutions, e.g. hospitals, health departments, etc. Students will be active participants, presenting environmental scans and leading weekly discussions based on the reading. A major goal will be a research paper on one of the

ethical issues or problems reviewed in class or in the readings. This will be presented at the end of the semester.

Course Learning Objectives

To understand the basic principles of public health and health care ethics.

To think critically about ethical issues in public health and health care today, analyze complex situations, and develop a personal informed position.

To be comfortable discussing personal opinions about ethical dilemmas in a classroom situation.

To learn how to cope with moral ambiguity.

Course Requirements for Grading Purposes

Lead discussion: The Course Pack, which will be provided to you, contains either book questions or a case for discussion (along with questions) for each study block. Students will sign up and take responsibility for an assignment (either questions or a case) and lead the discussion in class. In addition, each student will write a brief paper (3-4 typewritten pages) answering the questions they were responsible for, due at the end of that class session.

Environmental Scans: Students will conduct environmental scanning of newspapers, magazines and other current literature. Each student will review and summarize one article and present it in class and be prepared to discuss its ethical implications. Details of the assignment will be provided.

Letter to the Editor:

Select a single topic and write a letter to the editor of a medical/public health/healthcare journal of your choice. What journal would you send it to? Make a well defined point based on some ethical aspect of a topic discussed in class and present it as a letter to the editor. This should be no longer than two typewritten pages and may include references. Your letter may be handed in anytime or e-mailed to Dr Galen, but not later than the last class, April 26.

On Line Course: Protection of Human Research Subjects: Details will be provided.

Research Paper: A paper (15-20 pages) on a topic covered in class or in the readings will be due on April 26. Your paper should present an argument forcing you to take a position on an ethical issue. The last two class sessions will be devoted to student presentations of their research paper. Details of this assignment will be provided. Your topic and a brief outline are due on Tuesday, March 8.

The paper is due in class, April 26, 2011.

Final Exam: There will be NO final exam in this class. However, final exam time scheduled for this class will be used for class discussion and course evaluation.

Topical Outline

January 11
Snow Day

January 18
Course Description and Introduction

January 25
Reprogenetics

February 1
Foundations of the Patient Relationship

February 8
Issues with the Elderly

February 15
Death and Dying

February 22
Organizational Challenges

March 1
Social Justice

March 8
Research Ethics and Human Subjects
MOVIE in class
Research Topic and brief outline due

March 15
Spring Break

March 22
Research in Public Health and International Settings
UGA- Protection of Human Research Subjects Certification due

March 29
Ethics of Testing and Screening

April 5
Ethics and Infectious Disease Control

April 12
Student presentations

April 19
Student presentations

April 26
Presentation of "Letters to the Editor"
All research papers due today
Letters to the Editor due

May: exam week (TBA)
Course evaluation and discussion

Grading Policy

Letter grades (plus/minus) in this course will be based upon class participation, written assignments and a final research paper and presentation.

- 20% Class participation
 - 5% Lead discussion of weekly questions or case discussion
 - 5% Brief paper on the week for which you lead discussion
- 10% On-line certification in protection of human research subjects
 - 5% Presentation of environmental scan
- 10% Letter to the Editor
- 45% Research paper and classroom presentation

A	90-100	C+	74-76
A-	87-89	C	70-73
B+	84-86	C-	67-69
B	80-83	D	60-66
B-	77-79	F	59 and below

Make-Up Policy

There is no exam in this course. Late assignments should be handed in and will automatically receive at least the equivalent of one lower letter grade.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken. Students are expected to come to class prepared to share ideas and discuss assigned readings. In some cases, absences can be excused. Excuses for anticipated absences must be cleared with the instructor before the absence occurs. Send an e-mail explaining the situation. Excused absences include, but are not limited to, absence for court appearances, verifiable illness, and certain family emergencies/events. Written, dated documentation may be requested for each excused absence. Students with two (2) unexcused absences will be dropped from this class.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Students are advised to consult the UGA Policy on Academic Honesty:

<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.

General Disclaimers

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Cell Phone and Pagers: Turn off cell phones and pagers before coming to class. If you are expecting an important call and your cell phone or pager rings during class, please leave the classroom before answering the call.

