Theories of Medical Ethics is a course combining lecture presentation, class discussion, and student presentations. The objective of the course is to explore various cultural, religious, social, and professional traditions that contain more or less systematic positions on ethical issues in medicine. While some of these traditions are richly developed and have medical ethical systems that may be justifiably called "theories of medical ethics," others have only rudimentary positions in the area. The course will explore the mainstream of Western medical ethics as articulated by physicians and physicians' professional groups as well as a wide range of other secular and religious traditions including:

- Judaism
- Roman Catholicism
- Protestantism
- Liberal Western political philosophy
  (contract theory and the Patients' Rights Movement)
- Socialist perspectives
- Islam
- Chinese thought
- Hinduism
- Japanese medical ethics
- Professional ethical traditions in health care
  (nursing, social work, pharmacy, dentistry, etc.)

Each student will be responsible for all the reading in the course and will be expected to prepare two written statements. The first will be a detailed analysis of some important aspect of the metaethical theory selected from a series of topics to be distributed in class. This paper will be due no later than March 18. The second written statement will be a final examination, which will be a take-home exam. The final exam may be written whenever and wherever the student chooses, but must be submitted on the day the final exam is scheduled or before. It will consist of three essay questions and considerable choice will be permitted.
"THEORIES OF MEDICAL ETHICS
179-719-01
READING LIST

Texts:


*Cross Cultural Perspectives in Medical Ethics*, edited by Robert M. Veatch. Boston: Jones and Bartlett, 1989 [CCPME]. [Note: It is likely that the bookstore will tell you this book is out of print. A few copies are available from the Kennedy Institute Bookstore in Room 222 of Poulton Hall. Copies are also on reserve in the Bioethics library in Healy.]


[Note: Only sections will be read. Use library copy if you prefer].

Other readings are on reserve in the Kennedy Institute library in Healy 102. These readings are marked with an [R] symbol.

I. *Hippocrates, the Popes, Ahimsa, and Patients' Rights: Introduction to a History of Diversity*

JANUARY 14


A. The Hippocratic Tradition

[CC] Edelstein, Ludwig. "The Hippocratic Oath: Text, Translation and Interpretation.' Ancient Medicine: *Selected Papers of Ludwig Edelstein*. Temkin, Owsei, and C. Lilian Temkin, editors. Baltimore, Maryland: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1967, pp. 3-64. [Note: All readings designated by the letters, CC, are available in *Cross Cultural Perspectives in Medical Ethics*. The reprinted version is sometimes shortened. In all cases, the shortened version will be satisfactory for purposes of this course.]


*Additional reading for reference only.*
B. The Dominant Western Competitors


1. Judaism


2. Catholicism


3. Protestant Thought


4. Secular Liberal Thought and the Patients' Rights Movement


C. Medical Ethics Outside the Anglo-American West


1. Socialist and Post-Soviet Medical Ethics


2. Islamic Culture


3. Hinduism


4. Chinese Culture


5. Japanese and Buddhist Cultures

[CC] "The 17 Rules of Enjuin: For Disciples in Our School"


II. The Metaethics of Medical Ethics

FEBRUARY 4

A. The Grounding of Hippocratic Medical Ethics


FEBRUARY 11 [CHECK FOR RESCHEDULING]

B. Alternatives for Grounding Medical Ethics


FEBRUARY 18

III. Normative Ethics in Medical Ethics


A. Theories of Virtue


FEBRUARY 28

B. The Principles of Medical Ethics

1. Beneficence: Benefitting the Patient and Benefitting Society


MARCH 4

2. The Duty to Keep Contracts or Promises


3. Autonomy


MARCH 25

4. Veracity


APRIL 1

4. Avoiding Killing


5. Justice


D. The Relationship of Principles, Rules, and Cases

1. The Relation Among Principles


APRIL 22

2. The Relation Between Rules and Cases


APRIL 29 Review