Session I:
- Course Introduction; principles of medical ethics; public health and social justice ethics
- Symbols of love (flowers, diamonds, and gold)
- The tobacco industry and the global tobacco treaty
- History of rape in war; genocide in Darfur
- Troubling alliances in health care: GE Medical Systems and NY-Presbyterian Medical Center

Readings:
Garland M. Ethical thinking: Seven questions (handout)
Donohoe MT. GE – Bringing Bad Things to Life: The Unholy Alliance between General Electric Medical Systems and New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Synthesis/Regeneration 2006(Fall);41:31-3.

Session II:
- The medical humanities; literature and public health ethics
- Genetically-modified organisms – agriculture, aquaculture, biopharming
- rBGH and dairy foods

Readings:

Session III:
• Causes and health consequences of environmental degradation and social injustice (part I)

Readings:

Session IV:
• Causes and health consequences of environmental degradation and social injustice (part II)
• Luxury care: science, ethics, and policy
• The limits of the doctor-patient relationship: out of hospital diagnosis and treatment; duty to care

Readings:
Donohoe MT. Out of hospital emergencies and diagnoses (handout).
Mailman DR. To respond always.
Seltzer R. The consultation.

Session V:
• The pharmaceutical industry
  • Academia-industry relationships
  • Supplements
  • Antibiotics and factory farming
• Drug testing
• Ethical issues in human subject research: Nazi medicine through the present

Readings:

Session VI:
• Women’s Health and Human Rights
  • Partner abuse and rape
  • Teen pregnancy
  • International forms of subjugation of women (educational, political, legal and social marginalization)
  • Reproductive health care and obstacles to abortion
  • Female genital mutilation

Readings:


Donohoe MT. Truth-telling in medicine (handout).

Session VII:
- War and militarism
- Ideals of beauty and body modification
- Solutions, activism, the future
- Catch-up

Readings:
The War Prayer. Mark Twain.


Pastor Niemoller, “First they came for the Jews...”


Session VIII:
- Student Presentations
- Turn in essay
- Wrap-up and course evaluation

Administrative Details:
- Course open to upper level undergraduate and graduate students
- 3 units/30 hours
- Office hours by appointment
- Please read articles before class

Grading:
Pass/fail or grade, based on:
- Attendance and class participation – 40% (students may miss one class session for illness/emergency, but may not miss more than one session and still pass course)
- Class presentation (ppt., 10 minutes talk, 5 minutes for questions) – 20%
- Research paper (5-8 pages, 8-15 references) – 40%

Presentation and paper may be on same topic. Instructor will help students prepare particularly well-written papers for submission to journals/periodicals. Papers are due at final session.

List of possible research topics:
Child labor
Contemporary Slavery
Arguments for and against slavery reparations
Gun control
Mental health (multiple)
Impaired physicians
Health care fraud
Culturally-defined illnesses
Injury prevention - fires, helmets, etc.
Auto safety
Corporate welfare
Literacy and health care
Other countries’ health care systems - e.g., Canada, UK, Australia, Japan, Germany, Russia, etc.
Religion and health care ethics
Child and elder abuse
Prostitution
Complementary and alternative medicine
Corporal punishment
Capital punishment
Torture and human rights abuses
The AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa
Vivisection
Quarantines and infectious disease
Campaign finance reform and health care
Occupational health (multiple issues); farming and health
Breast feeding - international aspects of infant nutrition
Pseudoscience and Health Quackery
Greenwash and Bluewash
Diseases in history - e.g., plague, etc.
Famous figures in the history of medicine, nursing, dentistry, and public health
History of contraception or childbirth
Malpractice
Childhood lead poisoning
Medical aspects of adoption
Sex education in the schools
Polygraph testing
Funerary rituals and attitudes toward death historically or in other cultures
Humor and medical ethics
Many others...

Public Health and Social Justice Website
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