

## **Philosophy 321: Philosophy of Medicine**

A philosophical examination of the nature and practice of medicine. Topics covered may include: theories of the nature of health and illness and their implications for health care delivery; health care as a right vs. health care as a commodity; the nature of medicine as a profession and its implications for the health care professional-patient relationship; health care in a digital age and its implications for health care professionals and institutions; personhood and its implications for medical practice; research and experimentation and its role in health care; medicine and deliberate death.

Instructor: E-H Kluge

Office: CLE B313

Office hours: Mondays and Thursdays from 10-11 and by appointment

Calendar. Students are encouraged to discuss their examinations with the instructor.

### **Inappropriate behaviour and contraventions of academic integrity**

Inappropriate behaviour and violations of standards of academic integrity as defined in the University Calendar will be dealt with in accordance with University Regulations.

## **Tentative Outline of Lectures and Discussions**

### **1. The Nature of Health**

#### *Readings:*

- a. Boorse C. (1977). 'Health as a Theoretical Concept', *Philosophy of Science* 44:542–573 (available on-line through UVic Library)
- b. Nordenfelt L. The concepts of health and illness revisited. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy* 2007 Mar;10(1):5-10. (available on-line through UVic Library)
- c. M. Wiklund, A. Öhman, C. Bengs and E.-B. Malmgren-Olsson. Social and gendered embodiment – a useful theoretical concept in youth mental health and physiotherapy (available on-line through UVic Library)
- d. Wakefield J.C. (1992). 'The Concept of Mental Disorder: On the Boundary Between Biological Facts and Social Values', *American Psychologist* 47:373–388 (available online through UVic Library)

### **2. Health Care: Commodity vs. Right**

#### *Readings:*

- a. Kluge E-H. (2013). *Biomedical Ethics in a Canadian Context*. Chapter 9 (Book is on Reserve)
- b. Romanow Report: *Building on Values: the future of health care in Canada* (available online through the UVic Library)

### **3. Medicine as a Profession**

#### *Readings:*

- a. Singh M. The cultural evolution of shamanism. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 2017 Jul 6:1-83 (available on-line through UVic Library)
- b. Susan Gaylord. Alternative therapies and empowerment of older women. *Journal of Women & Aging*. 1999;11(2-3):29-47 (available on-line through UVic Library)
- c. Editorial: The Spirit of Apprenticeship in Medicine. *JAMA*. 1924;83(17):1337-1338. (available on-line through the UVic Library)

### **4. Health Care–Professional Relationship**

#### **A. Traditional health care**

#### *Readings:*

1. Kluge E-H. (2013). *Biomedical Ethics in a Canadian Context* Chapter 3
2. Osler W. "Aequanimitas." Valedictory Address, University of Pennsylvania, May 1, 1889 (on CourseSpaces)

## **B. Telehealth and the modern practice of medicine**

### *Readings:*

1. Kluge E-H. "The Physician-Patient Relationship in eHealth and Telemedicine: An ethical conundrum" Proceedings of the Multi Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems (MCCSIS 2014) (available on CourseSpaces)
2. Vogenberg, Barash CI, and Pursel M. Personalized Medicine: Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory Issues. *P T*. 2010 Nov; 35(11): 624-626, 628-631, 642 (available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2993070/>)

## **C. Informed Consent: The implications of cultural variations in the concept of personhood**

### *Readings:*

1. Dheri P. (2016) *Health Care in a Multicultural Canada: the Ethics of Informed Consent and the Duty to Warn of Hereditary Risk* (available on CourseSpaces).

## **5. Treatment vs. care: Cure, care, palliation and deliberate death**

### **A. Cure, care and palliative care**

#### *Readings:*

1. Mohanti BK. Ethics in Palliative Care. *Indian Journal of Palliative Care*. 2009 Jul-Dec; 15(2): 89–92. (available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2902121/>)

### **B. Death**

#### *Readings:*

1. Capron A. "Definition of Death". *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics*. (available through UVic Library online)
2. Miller FG. Death and organ donation: back to the future. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 2009; 35:616–629 available at <https://jme.bmj.com/content/medethics/35/10/616.full.pdf>

### **C. Abortion**

#### *Readings:*

1. Pope Paul VI. *Humanae vitae*. (available at [http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_25071968\\_humanae-vitae.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html))
2. Cao W. (2013) The Regulatory Model of Abortion in China through a Feminist Lens. *Asian Women* 29:2 (available at <http://www.e-asianwomen.org/xml/00826/00826.pdf>)
3. Kluge E-H. When caesarian section operations imposed by a court are justified. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 1988, 14, 206-211. (available at <https://jme.bmj.com/content/medethics/14/4/206.full.pdf>)

### **D. Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide**

#### *Readings:*

1. Govt. of Canada. *Medical Assistance in Dying Act*. (2016); available at <http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-14/royal-assent>
2. Ardelit M. (2003) Physician-assisted death., in CD Bryant et al, eds. *Handbook of Death and Dying*. available at

[http://users.clas.ufl.edu/ardelt/physician\\_assisted\\_death.pdf](http://users.clas.ufl.edu/ardelt/physician_assisted_death.pdf)

## **6. Research/Experimentation**

### *Readings:*

1. *Tri-Council Guidelines. Ethical conduct for Research Involving Humans* (2010)  
(Policy available at  
[http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/pdf/eng/tcps2/TCPS\\_2\\_FINAL\\_Web.pdf](http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/pdf/eng/tcps2/TCPS_2_FINAL_Web.pdf) )
2. Henderson GE, Peay HL, Kroon E, et a. Ethics of treatment interruption trials in HIV cure research: addressing the conundrum of risk/benefit assessment. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 2018 Apr; 44(4): 270–276. (available at  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5869463/>