

# **7AAN2058 Philosophy of Medicine** Syllabus – Academic year 2015-16

## **Basic information**

*Credits:* 20

*Module Tutor:* Professor Sherrilyn Roush

*Office:* 610 Philosophy Building

*Consultation Time:* Tuesday 11-12, Wednesday 3-4

*Semester:* Two

*Lecture time and venue:* Wednesday 11-1, Strand 306

## **Module description (plus aims and objectives)**

This module aims to provide an understanding of the central problems of contemporary Philosophy of Medicine. The specific problems under consideration include: concepts of health and disease; health and well-being; mental health and mental illness; genetic disease; genetic enhancement; medical decision making; placebos, and Evidence Based Medicine.

Students completing this module should gain:

- A textually-referenced knowledge of the main problems of contemporary Philosophy of Medicine
- The ability to deploy the philosophical techniques and argumentative strategies that can be used to discuss those problems
- The transferable skill of formulating and evaluating arguments both for and against various other kinds of philosophical positions
- An understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of some problems that arise in the practice of medicine

## **Assessment methods and deadlines**

- *Formative assessment*: two x 1,500-2,000-word essays, due by last day of term
- *Summative assessment*: one x two-hour end of year examination

NB Please note that for semester I-only Study Abroad students, assessment requirements may vary. In particular, May exams will be replaced by summative essays to be submitted by the end of term.

## **Outline of lecture topics (plus suggested readings) – see next page**

1. Introduction to concepts of Health and Disease: Naturalism and Normativism
  - Boorse (1977) Health as a theoretical concept; *Philosophy of Science*.
  - Kingma (2007) What is it to be Healthy?; *Analysis*.
  - Ereshefsky (2009) Defining 'Health' and 'Disease'; *Studies in the history and philosophy of biological and biomedical sciences*.
  
2. Functionalist accounts of disease
  - Wright (1973) Functions; *Philosophical Review*.
  - Boorse (1976) Wright on Functions; *Philosophical Review*.
  - Neander (1991) Functions as selected effects: the conceptual analyst's defence; *Philosophy of Science*
  
3. Normativism
  - Nordenfelt (1995) *On the Nature of Health*. Dordrecht: Kluwer. Chapters 3 & 4
  - Nordenfelt (2007) Establishing a Middle-Range Position in the Theory of Health: a reply to my critics; *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*.
  - Cooper (2010) Aristotelian Accounts of Disease; what are they good for?; *Philosophical Papers*.
  
4. Phenomenology and Theories of Wellbeing
  - Carel (2007) Can I be Ill and Happy?; *Philosophia*
  - Carel (2008) *Illness*. Acumen Publishing. Chapter 1 Kirkengen (2008 MCPH)]
  - Parfit, D., 1984, *Reasons and Persons*, Oxford: Clarendon Press. Appendix I 'What Makes Someone's Live Go Best?'
  - Crisp, Roger, "Well-Being", *The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2013 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2013/entries/well-being/>
  
5. Mental health and Mental Illness
  - Szasz, T. S. (1960) The Myth of Mental Illness. *American Psychologist*, 15, 113-118.
  - Megone (2000) Mental Illness, Human Function and Values; *Philosophy, Psychiatry & Psychology*.
  - Wakefield (1992) The Concept of Mental Disorder; on the boundary between biological facts and social values; *American Psychologist*.
  
6. Genetic disease
  - Magnus, David. "The concept of genetic disease." *Health, disease, and illness: Concepts in medicine* (2004): 233-42.
  - Smith, K (2001) "A disease by any other name: Musings on the concept of a genetic disease" *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy* 4
  - Juengst, E (2002) "Concepts of Disease After the Human Genome Project" Ethical Issues in Health Care on the Frontiers of the Twenty-First Century *Philosophy and Medicine*
  
7. Enhancement and Eugenics
  - Whitehouse, Peter J., et al. "Enhancing cognition in the intellectually intact." *Hastings Center Report* 27.3 (1997): 14-22.
  - Juengst, Eric T. "Can enhancement be distinguished from prevention in genetic medicine?." *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 22.2 (1997): 125-142.
  - Nordenfelt, Lennart. "On medicine and health enhancement-Towards a conceptual framework." *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy* 1.1 (1998): 5-12.

8. Medical decision making

- Schwartz 1973. Decision analysis and clinical judgment. *American Journal of Medicine* 55:459-472.
- Feinstein. 1994. Clinical judgment revisited: the distraction of quantitative models. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 120:799-805.
- Whitney "A new model of medical decisions: exploring the limits of shared decision making." *Medical Decision Making* 23.4 (2003): 275-280.

9. Placebo

- Miller & Brody (2011) Understanding and Harnessing the Placebo Effect: clearing away the underbrush. *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*.
- Moerman, D.E. & Jonas, W.B., 2002. Deconstructing the Placebo Effect and Finding the Meaning Response. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 136(6), pp.471-476.
- Nunn, R., 2009. It's time to put the placebo out of our misery. *British Medical Journal*, 338, b1568.

10. Evidence-based Medicine

- Straus SE, Jones G. What has evidence based medicine done for us? *BMJ* 2004 Oct 30;329(7473):987-8.
- Guyatt G, Cook D, Haynes B. Evidence based medicine has come a long way. *BMJ* 2004 Oct 30;329(7473):990-1.
- Reilly BM. The essence of EBM. *BMJ* 2004 Oct 30;329(7473):991-2.
- Atkins D, Best D, Briss PA, Eccles M, Falck-Ytter Y, Flottorp S, et al. Grading quality of evidence and strength of recommendations. *BMJ* 2004 Jun;19;328(7454):1490.
- Worrall (2002) *What Evidence in Evidence Based Medicine?* *Philosophy of Science*

## Suggested essay questions

Students are requested to formulate their own essay question based on anything relevant to the topics studied in this module. I urge that students approach me with their essay question suggestions for advice and guidance before they start working on their essays.