

Public Health Ethics- PHIL 401C

Winter Term 2016

Mon, Wed, Fri 9.00am - 10.20am in EEB 031

Instructor: Carina Fourie

Contact details: fourie@uw.edu

Office hours: Mon 2:30-4:30 PM or by appointment, 389 Savery Hall

i. Introduction

We will explore public health ethics by focusing on features that distinguish it from other fields in bioethics. This will include examining its focus on populations and on prevention, and considering the particularity of the sciences associated with public health as well as the methods with which one 'does' public health ethics. In conjunction, we will be attempting to answer central normative questions and assess public health policies and campaigns. For example, we will evaluate vaccination by choice, racial disparities in health, age discrimination in rationing, HIV-AIDS screening, and global health research.

Learning objectives:

Students who have successfully completed the course will be able to:

1. Identify, distinguish and assess a range of significant conceptual and ethical concerns in the field of public health;
2. Critically analyze the ethics of public health policies or campaigns;
3. Summarize the central thesis of philosophical arguments clearly and concisely;
4. Write a clear and original essay structured around a central thesis.



ii. Class expectations and environment

I expect all students to read the required papers in advance, to attend class, to participate, to treat others' views with respect, and to complete all the assignments. The course is an opportunity to discuss, assess and experiment with ideas in an open and mutually respectful environment.

iii. Student information

This course is run according to the UW Department of Philosophy's policies. You must read the summary of our policies, on the last two pages of this document (pgs. 4-5).

For *students with disabilities*, you can request information or disability accommodation through the Disabled Students Services (Seattle campus) at (206) 543-8924/V, (206) 543-8925/TTY, (206) 616-8379/Fax, or e-mail at uwdss@u.washington.edu.

For information on safety on campus for all students, please view the UW Safe Campus website: <http://www.washington.edu/safecampus/>.

iv. Assignments and grading

For undergraduates, the final grade for the course will be made up as follows:

- Class participation: 16 points or 20% (across the whole course)
- Reading summary (max 500 words; excl. references): 8 points or 10% ([Jan 17](#))
- Paper 1 (2000-2500 words; excl. references): 28 points or 35% ([Feb 7](#))
- Paper 2 (2000-2500 words; excl. references): 28 points or 35% ([Mar 15](#))

Total points: 80

For graduate students, the final grade will be made up as follows:

- Class participation: 16 points or 20% (across the whole course)
- Reading summary (max 500 words; excl. references): 8 points or 10% ([Jan 17](#))
- Draft of Grad Paper: 16 or 20% ([Feb 27](#))
- Grad Paper (around 6000 words; excl. references): 40 or 50% ([Mar 15](#))

Total points: 80

The final grade will be calculated by dividing the total points you receive by 20. For example, if you receive 70 points in total, your grade will be 3.5.

More information on assignments, grading, plagiarism and the 'Turnitin' program is provided in the document 'Assignments and Grading - Phil 401C' on Canvas. Please ensure you read this document before attempting an assignment. I will also provide additional details on how to complete assignments in class.

v. Course Outline and Readings: At a glance

All materials for the course, or instructions for locating materials for the course, will be made available on Canvas and arranged into chronological topic modules (check under 'Modules'). It is up to you to check Canvas regularly and to have the notifications set in such a way that you can keep up with materials, deadlines, and so on.

	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	Jan 4	Introduction to the course		
2	Jan 6	The meaning of 'public' in public health	1. Verweij & Dawson 2. Rose	
3	Jan 8		(Same as above)	
4	Jan 11	The meaning of 'health' in public health	1. Aas & Wasserman	
5	Jan 13		(Same as above)	
6	Jan 15	An overview of public health ethics	1. Dawson	
	Jan 17			Summary due
	Jan 18	No class – MLK day		
7	Jan 20	The harm principle and liberty	1. Mill 2. Wikler	
8	Jan 22	The common good and ethical frameworks	1. Paul 2. Kass	
9	Jan 25	Choice & coercion – screening & vaccination	1. Faden, Powers and Kass	
10	Jan 27		1. Colgrove 2. Salmon et al	
11	Jan 29	Risk & precaution	1. Gardiner	
12	Feb 1		1. WHO report	
13	Feb 3	Statistical vs. identifiable people	1. Hope	
14	Feb 5	Cost-Effectiveness Analysis	1. Brock	
	Feb 7			Paper 1 due
15	Feb 8	Health disparities & justice	1. Whitehead 2. Marmot	
16	Feb 10		2. Daniels	
17	Feb 12		(same as above)	
	Feb 15	No class – Presidents' day		
18	Feb 17	Health disparities & justice	1. Kawachi	
19	Feb 19	The human right to health	1. Wolff (i)	
20	Feb 22		1. Wolff (ii)	
21	Feb 24	The philosophy of epidemiology	1. Broadbent (i)	
22	Feb 26		1. Broadbent (ii)	
	Feb 27			Draft of grad paper due (only grads)
23	Feb 29	Justice between age-groups	1. Hellman 2. Lippert-Rasmussen	
24	Mar 2		1. Bognar & Hirose	
25	Mar 4		1. McKerlie	
26	Mar 7	Global public health research	1. Macklin 2. Benatar	
27	Mar 9		1. Pang	
28	Mar 11		(same as above)	
	Mar 15			Paper 2 or grad paper due

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS***

COURSES, GRADING, ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the use of creations, ideas or words of publicly available work without formally acknowledging the author or source through appropriate use of quotation marks, references, and the like. Plagiarizing is presenting someone else's work as one's own original work or thought. This constitutes plagiarism whether it is intentional or unintentional. The University of Washington takes plagiarism very seriously. Plagiarism may lead to disciplinary action by the University against the student who submitted the work. Any student who is uncertain whether his or her use of the work of others constitutes plagiarism should consult the course instructor for guidance before formally submitting the course work involved.

(Sources: UW Graduate School Style Manual; UW Bothell Catalog; UW Student Conduct Code)

Incompletes

An incomplete is given only when the student has been in attendance and has done satisfactory work until within two weeks of the end of the quarter and has furnished proof satisfactory to the instructor that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control.

(Source: UW General Catalog Online, "Student Guide/Grading")

Grade Appeal Procedure

A student who believes he or she has been improperly graded must first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the instructor's explanation, the student may submit a written appeal to the chair of the Department of Philosophy with a copy of the appeal also sent to the instructor. The chair consults with the instructor to ensure that the evaluation of the student's performance has not been arbitrary or capricious. Should the chair believe the instructor's conduct to be arbitrary or capricious and the instructor declines to revise the grade, the chair, with the approval of the voting members of his or her faculty, shall appoint an appropriate member, or members, of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy to evaluate the performance of the student and assign a grade. The Dean and Provost should be informed of this action. Once a student submits a written appeal, this document and all subsequent actions on this appeal are recorded in written form for deposit in a School file.

(Source: UW General Catalog Online, "Student Guide/Grading")

Concerns about a Course, an Instructor, or a Teaching Assistant

If you have any concerns about a Philosophy course or your instructor, please see the instructor about these concerns as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable talking with the instructor or not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the chair of the program offering the course (names available from the Department of Philosophy, 361 Savery Hall).

If you have any concerns about a teaching assistant, please see the teaching assistant about these concerns as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable talking with the teaching assistant or not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the instructor in charge of the course.

If you are still not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the chair of the program offering the course (names available from the Department of Philosophy, 361 Savery Hall), or the Graduate School at G-1 Communications Building (543-5900).

** Adapted from material prepared by the UW Department of History and used with permission.*

For your reference, these procedures are posted on a Philosophy bulletin board outside the Department of Philosophy main office on the 3rd floor of Savery Hall.

POLICIES, RULES, RESOURCES

Equal Opportunity

The University of Washington reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran in accordance with University of Washington policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

Disability Accommodation

The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. For information or to request disability accommodation contact: Disabled Students Services (Seattle campus) at (206) 543-8924/V, (206) 543-8925/TTY, (206) 616-8379/Fax, or e-mail at uwdss@u.washington.edu; Bothell Student Affairs at (425) 352-5000/V; (425) 352-5303/TTY, (425) 352-5335/Fax, or e-mail at uwbothel@u.washington.edu; Tacoma Student Services at (253) 552-4000/V, (253) 552-4413/TTY, (253) 552-4414/Fax.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as the use of one's authority or power, either explicitly or implicitly, to coerce another into unwanted sexual relations or to punish another for his or her refusal, or as the creation by a member of the University community of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment through verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

If you believe that you are being harassed, seek help—the earlier the better. You may speak with your instructor, your teaching assistant, the undergraduate advisor (363 Savery Hall), graduate program assistant (366 Savery Hall), or the chair of the Philosophy Department (364 Savery Hall). In addition, you should be aware that the University has designated special people to help you. They are: University Ombudsman and Ombudsman for Sexual Harassment (for complaints involving faculty members and teaching assistants) Susan Neff, 301 Student Union (HUB), 543-6028; and the University Complaint Investigation and Resolution Office, 616-2028.

(Sources: UW Graduate School, CIDR, Office of the President)

Office of Scholarly Integrity

The Office of Scholarly Integrity is housed in the Office of the Vice-Provost. The Office of Scholarly Integrity assumes responsibility for investigating and resolving allegations of scientific and scholarly misconduct by faculty, students, and staff of the University of Washington. The Office of Scholarly Integrity coordinates, in consultation and cooperation with the Schools and Colleges, inquiries and investigations into allegations of scientific and scholarly misconduct. The Office of Scholarly Integrity is responsible for compliance with reporting requirements established by various Federal and other funding agencies in matters of scientific or scholarly misconduct. The Office of Scholarly Integrity maintains all records resulting from inquiries and investigations of such allegations. University rules (Handbook, Vol. II, Section 25-51, Executive Order #61) define scientific and scholarly misconduct to include the following forms of inappropriate activities: intentional misrepresentation of credentials; falsification of data; plagiarism; abuse of confidentiality; deliberate violation of regulations applicable to research. Students can report cases of scientific or scholarly misconduct either to the Office of Scholarly Integrity, to their faculty adviser, or the department chair. The student should report such problems to whomever he or she feels most comfortable.

(Sources: UW web page (<http://www.grad.washington.edu/OSI/osi.htm>); minutes of Grad School Executive Staff and Division Heads meeting, 7/23/98)