

**INSTRUCTOR:**

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**GOALS:**

- (1) Demonstrate basic knowledge of distributive justice theories;
- (2) Identify connections between theories of justice and healthcare rights;
- (3) Distinguish implicit and explicit forms of healthcare rationing;
- (4) Critique the U.S. healthcare system using global comparisons;
- (5) Understand future challenges facing global healthcare systems; and
- (6) Appreciate cultural assumptions underlying moral theories, principles and judgments.

**MEETINGS:** In-class meetings are Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30-4:20 in HSB BB1602. This class combines in-person & online learning. Refer to the daily schedule (below) for more information.

**DESCRIPTION:** The course examines the ethical problem of allocating scarce health care resources. Our emphasis throughout is on fundamental principles of justice that support alternative health policies. The first part of the course introduces theories of justice, and considers the support they lend to a right to health care. The second section considers health care rationing, including rationing based on a patient's ability to pay; likelihood, length, or quality of medical benefit; social value; and age. We also consider criteria of random selection; first come, first served; and favored group status. The final part of the course explores future challenges facing the U.S. and global health care systems, including ensuring quality, containing costs, improving access, and meeting the needs of a rapidly aging societies. There are no prerequisites; however, prior course work in philosophy or ethics is strongly recommended.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

**Undergraduate students** take 2 in-class examinations, participate in 3 in-class group assignments, and complete 10 online philosophical reflections. Course grades for undergraduates are based on:

- Examinations: 100 points each, total 200 points or 50% of course grade
- Group Projects: 33 or 34 points, total 100 points or 25% of course grade
- Philosophical Reflections: 10 points each, total 100 points or 25% of course grade

**Graduate students** complete the same assignments and complete an 8-10-page research paper dealing in more depth with one of the topics discussed in class. Paper proposals must be approved by the instructor. Final papers are screened using the online plagiarism prevention and detection tool, VeriCite. Course grades for graduate students are based on:

- Examinations: 100 points each, total 200 points or 40% of course grade
- Group Assignments: 33 or 34 points, total 100 points or 20% of course grade
- Philosophical Reflections: 10 points each, total 100 points or 20% of course grade
- Paper: 100 points each or 20% of course grade

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Philosophical Reflections** engage students in writing and reflecting on readings & require formulating & defending a philosophical position in response to a question posed by the instructor. Students earn full credit for on-time postings that show reasonable quality & effort; no credit is earned for unsatisfactory or late work. Each reflection should be written in journal format and be approximately 250-500 words in length.

**Group Projects** facilitate working with classmates in small groups to debate a contemporary ethical problem using a case study. Students discuss issues, develop arguments, prepare slides, & present material to classmates. **Exams** test student mastery of material covered in online and in-class lectures and discussion. The format combines essays and multiple-choice questions. Exam review sheets will be available online to facilitate exam preparation and the class prior to the exam will be devoted to exam preparation. Exams are online & require an access code, which will be provided in class on exam dates. Use of notes, books, & non-exam websites is strictly prohibited.

**Graduate Student Papers** consist of an 8-10-page research paper dealing in more depth with one of the topics discussed in class. Prior to submitting the paper, graduate students must submit a proposal to the instructor for approval and a draft paper to colleagues for structured online and in-class peer review.

**Extra Credit** may occur in the form of unannounced, one-minute papers, assigned in-class and worth 1 point each on a 100-point scale. Points are added to final scores at the end of the quarter. For example, if your final score for the course is a 78 out of 100 and you earn 2 extra credit points, your final grade will be raised to 80.

### **POLICIES** (double click to open):

*UW, Student Academic Responsibility Policy*

*BH Department, Academic Conduct Policy (includes disability accommodation)*

*BH Department, Grading Policy*

*Instructor, Late Assignment Policy*

*Instructor, Vericite Policy*

*Instructor, Missed Class Policy*

### **READINGS:**

All required readings are available free of charge online at the Canvas Page, E-Readings.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

On exam days, a laptop is mandatory. You may borrow one free of charge from the UW Student Technology Fee (STF) Loan Program. Additional information at: <http://www.cte.uw.edu/STFEquipment>

### **DAILY SCHEDULE:**

#### **I. Distributive Justice**

##### A. Principles and Theories

##### 1. Introduction

**January 8** Jecker, "Justice," *Encyclopedia of Bioethics, 4th edition*  
Murphy, "Ideas of Justice & Reconstructions of Confucian Justice"  
*Recommended: Hardin, "Living on a Lifeboat"*

##### 2. Western, Confucian & Sub-Saharan African Theories

**January 10** Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Selection)  
Alexander, "What If We're All Coming Back?"  
Metz, "African Conceptions of Human Dignity"  
*Recommended: Fan, Reconstructionist Confucianism, 45-68*  
ONLINE REFLECTION 1 DUE

**January 15** Online Lecture 1: Critique of Justice as Fairness (View prior to class)  
Kumar, "The Problem of Moral Luck" (Steaming Media)  
Vonnegut, "Harrison Bergeron"  
*Recommended: Nussbaum, "The Enduring Significance of John Rawls"*  
GROUP ASSIGNMENT #1 (IN-CLASS)

##### 3. Entitlement and Egalitarian Theories

- January 17 Nozick, *Anarchy State and Utopia*  
Gutmann, "For and Against Equal Access"  
Tai and Lin, "Developing a Culturally Relevant Bioethics for Asian People"  
*Recommended:* Berliner, Kenworthy, "Producing a Worthy Illness"; Chandler, "It's all right –he only died"; Anderson, "What's the Point of Equality?"  
ONLINE REFLECTION 2 DUE
- January 22 4. Act and Rule Utilitarian Theories  
Dougherty, *American Health Care*, pp. 35-50  
Ochasi & Clark, "Reuse of Pacemakers in Ghana & Nigeria"
- January 24 B. Health Care Rights  
1. Global Perspectives  
No In-Class Meeting  
Online Film: "Sick Around the World: UK, Japan, Taiwan, Germany & Switzerland  
Lee, "Health Policy in Asia & the Pacific"  
UN General Assembly, *Declaration of Human Rights*  
ONLINE REFLECTION 3 DUE
- January 29 2. National Perspectives  
Guest: Scott Biggins, M.D., UW School of Medicine, Department of Medicine  
Biggins, "Futility and Rationing in Liver Re-transplantation"  
*Recommended:* Biggins, Huang et al, "Decision Making in Liver Transplant," Ladin, Hanto, "Are Geographic Differences in Transplantation Inherently Wrong?"  
PAPER PROPOSALS DUE (Graduate Students Only)  
EXAMINATION 1 REVIEW SHEET AVAILABLE (Online)
- January 31 3. Ethical Underpinnings  
Dougherty, *American Health Care*, pp. 51-68 and 69-132  
Fan, *Reconstructionist Confucianism*, 72-74  
ONLINE REFLECTION 4 DUE
- II. Health Care Rationing**  
**B. Patient Selection**
- February 5 No In-Class Meeting  
Online Lecture 2: Health Care Rationing (View prior to class)  
Etheredge, "Ethics & Rationing Access to Dialysis in Resource-Limited Settings: Consequences of Refusing Renal Transplant in South Africa"
- February 7 GROUP ASSIGNMENT #2 (In-Class)  
EXAMINATION 1 REVIEW (Online Discussion Board)  
ONLINE REFLECTION 5 DUE
- February 12 No In-Class Meeting  
EXAMINATION 1\* (Online, 110 minutes)  
*\*NOTE: Examination 1 opens at 12:01 am on February 12 and is due at 11:59 pm on February 12. Once you open the exam, you cannot stop and restart it later. The exam auto-submits 110 minutes after you open it. Late exams will be penalized 10 points per hour late (including partial hours).*

### 1. Social Criteria

February 14 No In-Class Meeting  
 Film (Online): "Who Shall Live?" (54 minutes)  
 Alexander, "They Decide Who Lives Who Dies"  
 Jecker, "Caring for 'Socially Undesirable' Patients"  
*Recommended:* Schneiderman, Jecker, "Should A Criminal Receive a Heart Transplant?"  
 ONLINE REFLECTION 6 DUE

February 19 Kilner, *Who Lives? Who Dies?* pp. 27-74  
*Recommended:* Jecker, "Justice Between Age Groups"

### 2. Socio-Medical and Medical Criteria

February 21 Kilner, *Who Lives? Who Dies?* pp. 77-160  
*Recommended:* Jecker, "The Problem with Rescue Medicine"  
 DRAFTS DUE FOR PEER REVIEW (Graduate Students Only)  
 ONLINE REFLECTION 7 DUE

### 3. Personal Criteria

February 26 Kilner, *Who Lives? Who Dies?* pp. 163-207 and 221-237  
 Day, "Distributive Justice & Responsibility for Personal Choices about Health"  
 ONLINE PEER REVIEW DUE prior to class (Graduate Students Only)  
 IN-CLASS PEER REVIEW (Graduate Students Only, Undergraduates dismissed early)

## **III. Healthcare System Challenges**

### A. Universal Access to Healthcare

February 28 WHO, *Making Fair Choices on the Path to Universal Health Coverage* pp. 1-41  
 Republic of South Africa, Dept of Health, "National Health Insurance for South Africa"  
 Onishi, "South Africa Vows to End Corruption. Are New Leaders Part of the Problem?"  
*Recommended:* Online Lecture 3: Jecker, US Healthcare Reform: Obamacare  
 GROUP ASSIGNMENT #3 (IN-CLASS)  
 ONLINE REFLECTION 8 DUE

### B. Global Perspectives

March 5 1. Rights to Healthcare in International Law  
 Guest: Beth Rivin, MD, UW Global Health & Justice Project  
 Robinson, "Human Rights & the Global Politics of Resistance: Feminist Perspectives"  
*Recommended:* Arras, "Bioethics & Human Rights: Access to Health-Related Goods"  
 EXAMINATION 2 REVIEW SHEET AVAILABLE (Online)

March 7 2. Global Scorecards  
 Aaron Katz, Ph.D., UW School of Public Health  
 OCED, Health at a Glance: 2017, Chapter 1  
*Recommended:* Peterson Center & Kaiser Foundation, "How Does the Quality of the US Healthcare System Compare to Other Countries?"  
 ONLINE REFLECTION 9 DUE

March 12 No In-Class Meeting

## EXAM 2 REVIEW (Online Discussion Board)

March 14

No In-Class Meeting

EXAMINATION 2\* (Online, 110 minutes)

*\*NOTE: Examination 2 opens at 12:01 am on March 14 and is due at 11:59 pm on March 14. Once you open the exam, you cannot stop and restart it later. The exam auto-submits 110 minutes after you open it. Late exams will be penalized 10 points per hour late (including partial hours).*

GRADUATE STUDENT PAPERS DUE

ONLINE REFLECTION 10 DUE