
PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS - PHIL 441

WINTER 2021

Instructor: Carina Fourie

To contact me electronically, send me a **message on Canvas via the Inbox**

Class Discussion (Zoom): TTh 10.30am-12.pm PST

Office hours (Zoom): T 12-12.30pm & Th 12-12.30pm & 2.30-3.30pm PST
or by appointment



WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?

We will investigate public health ethics as a distinctive field of applied ethics. In order to do so, we will assess significant concepts such as 'population', 'health' and 'equity'. In conjunction, we will be attempting to answer central normative ethical questions and to assess real-life public health programs and policies. For example, we will examine applied problems associated with pandemics (including the one we are currently living through!), vaccinations, racial disparities in health, ableism, HIV-AIDS, and global health and colonialism. We will also consider the particularity of the sciences associated with public health.

My central goals for this seminar are that you should come away with the following:

- Content knowledge of key concepts and debates that are central to the ethics of public health. *(Achieved through written assignments; quizzes)*
- Skills of conceptual analysis relevant for disembedding and assessing assumptions that underpin popular, scientific and philosophical debate about public health. *(Achieved through written assignments; participation; quizzes)*
- Skills of conceptual analysis relevant for assessing the ethics of public health policies, programs and practices. *(Achieved through written assignments; participation)*
- Skills of oral communication relevant for expressing and assessing philosophical perspectives in impromptu and informal settings. *(Achieved through participation)*
- Enhanced philosophical reading, analysis, argumentation and writing skills. *(Achieved through written assignments; participation; quizzes)*

PRELIMINARY TOPICS & READINGS: AT A GLANCE

	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Jan. 5	Introduction to the course	1. Syllabus 2. Assignment Document 3. "Some Reassurance"
2	Jan. 7	Ethics frameworks for public health: maximizing health; the harm principle; social justice	1. Faden & Shebaya 2. Fleischacker 3. Mill
3	Jan. 12		1. Faden & Shebaya (cntd)
4	Jan. 14	The public of public health ethics	1. Rose 2. Frohlich & Potvin
5	Jan. 19	The health of public health ethics	1. Aas & Wasserman
6	Jan. 21	Discrimination & health care prioritization	1. Hellman
7	Jan. 26	Problems with maximizing and cost-effectiveness analysis	1. Brock
8	Jan. 28	Infectious Disease & COVID-19	Screening & Vaccination 1. Faden & Areen 2. Drew
9	Feb. 2		Pandemics & Epidemics 1. The Hastings Center 2. DeBruin et al.
10	Feb. 4		Justice & COVID-19 1. Savin & Guidry-Grimes 2. The Guardian article 3. New Yorker article
11	Feb. 9		The Precautionary Principle 1. Gardiner
12	Feb. 11	Social Injustice & Health Disparities	Health inequity 1. Whitehead 2. Birn
13	Feb. 16		Social injustice 1. Prida & Voigt
14	Feb. 18		Global injustice 1. Crane
15	Feb. 23		The human right to health 1. Hessler 2. Newspaper article
16	Feb. 25	HIV-AIDS & the Human Right to Health	The human right to health 1. Wolff
17	Mar. 2		The human right to health & rural health in South Africa 1. Steinberg
18	Mar. 4		Rural health in South Africa 2. Steinberg
19	Mar. 9	Science & Values	Philosophy of Epidemiology 1. Broadbent 2. Krieger
20	Mar. 11		Values in Science 1. Martin

WHAT AND WHERE ARE THE COURSE MATERIALS?

As this a course in philosophy, we will read many philosophical texts, especially those in ethics. As public health ethics requires interdisciplinary collaboration, additionally we will read texts from a range of other disciplines including epidemiology, global health and medical sociology. All texts for the course, as well as other materials, such as assignments and external URLs, can be found on **Canvas**. The only other app you will need is **Zoom**.

HOW WILL GRADING WORK?

I have adapted the course to try to suit our new circumstances and to ensure that you still receive a grade and full credit. The final grade for undergraduates will be based on points out of 4, determined in the following way:

- **Written assignments: 2 points:**
 - Exposition: 0.5 (two submission opportunities; submit a minimum of 1; best of 2)
 - Policy assessment: 0.5 (two submission opportunities; submit a minimum of 1; best of 2)
 - Final Argumentative Essay: 1 point (compulsory to pass; can be revised if the initial grade is less than 80%)
- **Participation Self-Assessment & Quizzes: 2 points:**
 - If you have good reason why you are unable to participate regularly, please consult me ASAP for alternative asynchronous arrangements.

For more detail, please read the documents on assignments under 'Resources - Essentials' in the Modules section of Canvas, and see the 'Assignments' sections in Canvas.

A BREAKDOWN OF THE WEEKLY TASKS

FOR Tuesday class: Work through the preparation worksheets; Read the required texts;
Watch the lecture/s; Prepare for the class poll (Material available under
the relevant Module on Canvas).

ON Tuesdays

10.30am-12pm: Class (Zoom)
12-12.30pm: Office hours (Zoom; Voluntary)
11.59pm: Self-assessment for Tue. Participation due (Canvas)

FOR Thursday class: Work through the preparation worksheets; Read the required texts;
Watch the lecture/s; Prepare for the class poll (Material available under
the relevant Module on Canvas).

ON Thursdays,

10.30am-12pm: Class (Zoom)
12-12.30pm: Office hours (Zoom; Voluntary)
2.30-3.30pm: Office hours (Zoom; Voluntary)
11.59pm: Weekly quiz due (Canvas; starts Thu, Jan 14)
AND Self-assessment for Thu. participation due (Canvas)

All written assignments, except those due in finals week, will be due on a Friday at 11.59pm. See Canvas Assignments for details of the deadlines.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to practice academic honesty, which includes not plagiarizing. Academic dishonesty will lead to grade penalization and may lead to disciplinary action. Please also see the Department of Philosophy's policies on 'academic misconduct' below.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS - USE OF PLAGIARISM DETECTION SOFTWARE

Notice: The University has a license agreement with SimCheck, an educational tool that helps prevent or identify plagiarism from Internet resources. I am using this service in this class by requiring that assignments are submitted electronically to be checked by SimCheck. The SimCheck Report will indicate the amount of original text in your work and whether all material that you quoted, paraphrased, summarized, or used from another source is appropriately referenced.

RESOURCES & ADDITIONAL POLICIES

ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS on your campus. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

- UW Bothell: [Disability Resources for Students \(UW Bothell\)](#) Email: uwbdrs@uw.edu Phone: 425-352-5307
- UW Seattle: [Disability Resources for Students \(UW Seattle\)](#) Email: uwdrs@uw.edu Phone: 206-543-8924
- UW Tacoma: [Disability Resources for Students \(UW Tacoma\)](#) Email: druwt@uw.edu Phone: 253-692-4508

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

For resources on health and well-being, please contact the UW [Wellness Center](#) or [Hall Health](#). For UW resources about COVID-19, you can click [here](#).

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Resources are available for you [here](#).

HELP WITH TECHNOLOGY

Consider these resources:

UW loans equipment such as laptops to students and is willing to ship it out if you cannot pick it up from campus: <https://www.facebook.com/uwstlp>.

For any technical issues with Canvas or Zoom, please consult UW IT's website, email them on help@uw.edu, or call them 206-221-5000.

If you have ongoing challenges with technology which are interfering with your ability to meet course requirements, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work out possible alternatives.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS - ZOOM RECORDINGS

Zoom class sessions will be recorded. The recording will capture my audio, video and computer screen. Student audio and video will be recorded if they share their computer audio and video during the recorded session. The recordings will only be accessible to students enrolled in the course to review materials. These recordings will not be shared with or accessible to the public.

The University and Zoom have FERPA-compliant agreements in place to protect the security and privacy of UW Zoom accounts.

Students who do not wish to be recorded should:

- Change their Zoom screen name to hide any personal identifying information like their name or UW Net ID; and
- Not share their computer audio or video during their Zoom sessions*

* Your participation in breakout rooms will not be recorded; for those purposes you must use your name, and share your audio with the other students in those discussions.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY: POLICIES AND RESOURCES

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, is prohibited by the [Student Conduct Code for the University of Washington](#) and is taken very seriously by the UW. According to the student conduct code, academic misconduct includes:

1. "Cheating" which includes, but is not limited to:
 1. The use of unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations, or completing assignments;
 2. The acquisition, use, or distribution of unpublished materials created by another student without the express permission of the original author(s);
 3. Using online sources, such as solution manuals, without the permission of the instructor to complete assignments, exams, tests, or quizzes; or
 4. Requesting, hiring, or otherwise encouraging someone to take a course, exam, test, or complete assignments for a student.
2. "Falsification," which is the intentional use or submission of falsified data, records, or other information including, but not limited to, records of internship or practicum experiences or attendance at any required event(s), or scholarly research.

3. "Plagiarism," which is the submission or presentation of someone else's words, composition, research, or expressed ideas, whether published or unpublished, without attribution. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
 1. The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; or
 2. The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or acquired from an entity engaging in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
4. Unauthorized collaboration.
5. Engaging in behavior specifically prohibited by an instructor in the course of class instruction or in a course syllabus.
6. Multiple submissions of the same work in separate courses without the express permission of the instructor(s).
7. Taking deliberate action to destroy or damage another's academic work in order to gain an advantage for oneself or another.
8. The recording of instructional content without the express permission of the instructor(s), unless approved as a disability accommodation, and/or the dissemination or use of such unauthorized records.

(Source: [WAC 478-121 - Academic Misconduct](#))

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.

INCOMPLETES

Incomplete grades may only be awarded if a student is doing satisfactory work up until the last two weeks 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. (Sources: [Office of the Registrar – Incomplete Grades](#)), [UW General Catalog, Student Guide – Grading System](#))

GRADE APPEAL PROCEDURE

A student who believes that the instructor erred in the assignment of a grade, or who believes a grade recoding error or omission has occurred, shall first discuss the matter with the instructor before the end of the following academic quarter (not including Summer Quarter). If the student is not satisfied with the instructor's explanation, the student, no later than ten days after their discussion with the instructor, 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, Student Guide – Grading System](#))

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).

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.

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 advisor (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. For assistance you may contact: [SafeCampus](#); [Office of the Ombud](#) (339 HUB, 206-543-6028); [Title IX Investigation Office](#) (for complaints that a University student has violated the sexual misconduct provisions of the Student Conduct Code); [University Complaint Investigation and Resolution Office](#) (for complaints concerning the behavior of University employees, including faculty, teaching assistants, and other student employees).

INTEGRITY

The Office of Research Misconduct Proceedings (ORMP) coordinates the University's handling of allegations of research misconduct against members of the University community, in consultations and cooperation with the University's schools, colleges, and campuses.

University rules define scientific and scholarly misconduct to include the following forms of inappropriate activity: 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 ORMP, to their faculty adviser, or the department chair. The student should report such problems to whomever he or she feels most comfortable.

(Sources: [Executive Order No. 61 – Research Misconduct Policy](#); [Office of Research Misconduct Proceedings](#); minutes of Grad School Executive Staff and Division Heads meeting, 7/23/98.)

SAFECAMPUS

Preventing violence is everyone's responsibility. SafeCampus is the University of Washington's Violence Prevention and Response Program. They support students, staff, faculty, and community members in preventing violence.

SafeCampus staff will listen to your concerns and provide support and safety plans tailored to your situation. Caring, trained professionals will talk you through options and connect you with additional resources if you want them.

If you're concerned, tell someone.

- Always call 911 if you or others may be in danger.
- Call 206-685-SAFE (7233) to report non-urgent threats of violence and for referrals to UW counseling and/or safety resources. TTY or VP callers, please call through your preferred relay service.
- Don't walk alone. Campus safety guards can walk with you on campus after dark. Call Husky NightWalk 206-685-WALK (9255).
- Stay connected in an emergency with UW Alert. Register your mobile number to receive instant notification of campus emergencies via text and voice messaging. [Sign up for UW Alert](#)
- For more information visit the [SafeCampus website](#).

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy \(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form \(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).

FOOD INSECURITY AND HARDSHIP

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the UW Any Hungry Husky Program. Any Hungry Husky provides hunger relief free of judgment or stigma. Go to <https://www.washington.edu/anyhungryhusky/> for information about the food pantry and food security grants. In addition, UW offers emergency aid for students experiencing unexpected financial hardships that may disrupt their education or get in the way of completing their degree. Go to <https://www.washington.edu/emergencyaid/> for more information about how to apply.