

SPPH 538DL: APPLICATION OF ETHICAL THEORIES IN THE PRACTICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Summer 2018: May 26, June 16, July 14 (8:30 am to 4:30 pm)

Class location: SPPH 143, UBC Vancouver

(May 3, 2018 draft – please check the Canvas site for any updated version)

Instructor

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Additional Course Materials: <http://canvas.ubc.ca> (use your CWL -- you may be asked to create a new account the first time you login)

Description

This course will survey ethical issues and cases in population and public health, and review related ethical discussions, concepts, and principles as relevant to these issues. It is designed to help build competency in ethical reasoning and professional practice in public health. Such competency is defined by the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) as the ability to identify and respond with integrity to ethical issues in diverse economic, political, and cultural contexts, and promote accountability for the impact of policy decisions upon public health practice at local, national, and international levels. Keeping in mind the impact of various health policies and practices on health equity and social justice, we will pay particular attention on protecting human research participants in diverse cultural settings, responding to public health emergencies, holding international organizations accountable for public health practice standards, and promoting integrity in professional practice. While public health ethics has tended to focus on communicable diseases (CDs), pandemics, and emergencies, the increasing prevalence of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and respiratory illnesses, which are associated with environmental, systemic, and structural factors, have prompted increasing attention to the significance of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in public health policy and practice. As such, we will pay attention to both CDs and NCDs in this course.

Learning Objectives

The overall goal of this course is to increase students' decision-making, reasoning, and analytic capacity related to ethical issues in practice, policy, and research. Informed by the ASPH model public health ethics curriculum,¹ this course is designed with the following objectives in mind:

1. Stimulate students' moral imagination
2. Improve students' ability to recognize ethical issues in public health practice and research
3. Develop analytic skills
4. Elicit a sense of ethical obligation and responsibility for our work in public health
5. Teach skills for managing ethical ambiguity

Readings

All readings in this course are either open access or accessible through the UBC library/CWL Login. They are listed below for each class, and should be read *prior* to that class to facilitate informed discussions. Additional news articles and videos to be viewed in between classes will be posted on the Canvas course website (<http://canvas.ubc.ca>). Two consolidated volumes that will be referenced throughout the course are the following two case collections:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Population and Public Health. (2012). *Population and Public Health Ethics: Cases from Research, Policy, and Practice*. University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics: Toronto, ON.
<http://jcb.utoronto.ca/publications/documents/Population-and-Public-Health-Ethics-Casebook-ENGLISH.pdf> (“CIHR Casebook” in the syllabus)
- WHO -- Casebook on ethical issues in international health research. (2009).
<http://www.who.int/ethics/publications/9789241547727/en/> (“WHO Casebook” in the syllabus)

Topics Covered

- The concept of public health and its ethical dimensions
- Moral principles relevant to health care and public health
- Tensions between individual liberty and collective interests in population and public health
- Justice and health inequities
- A survey of public health ethics issues arising in preventing and managing communicable and non-communicable diseases.

¹ Jennings B, Kahn J, Mastroianni A, Parker LS. *Ethics and Public Health: Model Curriculum*. Washington DC; Association of Schools of Public Health: 2003.

Course activities and expectations

All three full-day course meetings are required. Active participation in group discussions and preparations is required. Given that this is a distributed learning course, there will be approximately 15 hours of extra curriculum online, some of which will include group work, video lectures, online discussion forum, teleconferencing, etc.

Active class participation, online discussion, group presentations, and two short papers using various ethical tools will help you build and demonstrate skills of ethical reasoning and decision-making in written form and in verbal argumentation.

Grades

Participation in In-Class Meetings (15%): Participation is based on attending the three face-to-face full-day meetings and engaging in class activities, such as general class discussions, presentations, and group exercises. Students are expected to demonstrate understanding based on the assigned readings for each meeting. This includes readings before the first session (May 26), as well as during the 3-4 weeks between the sessions. As face-to-face participation cannot be made up outside of the classroom regardless of reasons for non-attendance, any absence will automatically result in deduction of participation points. 5% will be assigned for each full-day meeting (or 2.5% for each half-day).

Online Discussions (15%): As a DL course, online discussions between class meetings are designed to help maintain critical thinking and learning throughout the summer term. There will be two discussions – one between Session 1 and Session 2, and another one between Session 2 and Session 3. They will be based on either a video presentation or news articles. You will be required to submit an original entry (5% per discussion topic) plus at least one response to your classmate (2.5% per discussion topic). Demonstration of critical understanding and engagement is expected for both your original entry and your response.

Group presentation (15%): As public health practitioners and researchers often have to work in teams and present their ideas to funders, concerned citizens, and other stakeholders, you will collaborate with colleagues to produce an ethical analysis of a case or propose a public health intervention/campaign that is ethically sound. A PowerPoint presentation will be submitted, and groups will be called upon during the 2nd and 3rd sessions to present. You will work in groups of 2-3 to develop an understanding of the controversies and basis for disagreement and then each present an argument in support of a different ethical conclusion. The topic and partners will be assigned at the 1st and 2nd sessions, and the presentations will be in the 2nd and 3rd sessions. The communication and preparation can occur through meetings, email, or online, as each group decides will work best for them.

Short Papers (55%) Two 4-6-page (double spaced) ethical analyses. The objective of each analysis is to explain the ethical issue(s), the controversies, and to describe what additional information or assessment might help with a final recommendation. The topics for the papers will be distributed on the first class (Paper 1: 25%) and second class (Paper 2: 30%). The papers will be due on June 25th and July 23 respectively. Late papers will be reduced by 5% for each

day past deadline.

Grading Scale

90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
76-79	B+
72-75	B
68-71	B-
64-67	C+
60-63	C

Course Schedule, readings and activities

To optimize your learning and facilitate productive in-class discussions, it is essential that all students complete the assigned readings beforehand. More detailed descriptions of in-class activities will be posted on the [Canvas site](#) closer to each class date.

Session I: May 26, 2018

Theorizing and Framing Public Health Ethics

- Onora O’Neill (2002) Public Health or Clinical Ethics: Thinking beyond Borders. *Ethics & International Affairs* 16, no. 2. Pp. 35-45.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1747-7093.2002.tb00395.x>
- Childress, J, R Faden, R Gaare, L Gostin, J Kahn, R Bonnie, N Kass, A Mastroianni, J Moreno, P Kieburg (2002). Public health ethics: Mapping the terrain. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 30: 170-178.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/11307207_Public_Health_Ethics_Mapping_the_Terrain
- Petrini C. Theoretical Models and Operational Frameworks in Public Health Ethics. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2010;7(1):189-202. doi:10.3390/ijerph7010189. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2819784/>
- Kass, N. "An Ethics Framework for Public Health." *American Journal of Public Health*. 91(11): 1776-1782. 2001. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1446875/>
- Gostin, L., Powers, M. (2006) What Does Social Justice Require for the Public’s Health? Public Health Ethics and Policy Imperatives. *Health Affairs*, Volume 25, No 4, pp. 1053 – 1060. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.25.4.1053>
- Françoise Baylis, Nuala P. Kenny, Susan Sherwin; A Relational Account of Public Health

Ethics, *Public Health Ethics*, Volume 1, Issue 3, 1 November 2008, Pages 196–209,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/phe/phn025>

Public Health Codes of Ethics:

- PHAC Core Competencies for Public Health in Canada. http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/php-ppsp/ccph-cesp/about_cc-apropos_ce-eng.php
- American Public Health Association Code of Ethics.
https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/membersgroups/ethics_brochure.ashx

Individuals, Communities, and Justice in Public Health:

- Upshur R. Principles for the justification of public health intervention. *Can J Public Health*. 2002 Mar-Apr;93(2):101-3.
<http://www.icb.utoronto.ca/people/publications/cjph2002.pdf>
- David R. Buchanan, “Autonomy, Paternalism, and Justice: Ethical Priorities in Public Health”, *American Journal of Public Health* 98, no. 1 (January 1, 2008): pp. 15-21. DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2007.110361
- Case Discussion: Equitable consequences: Issues of evidence, equity and ethics arising from outdoor smoke-free policies, in [CIHR Casebook](#), pp. 59-69
- Case Discussion: Health Inequities in First nations communities and Canada’s response to the H1N1 Influenza pandemic, in [CIHR Casebook](#), pp. 153-163

SESSION II: JUNE 16

Public Health Research and Surveillance

- WHO. Managing Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Outbreaks. 2017.
<http://www.who.int/ethics/publications/infectious-disease-outbreaks/en/>
- Glanz K, Kegler MC, Rimer BK. Ethical Issues in the Design and Conduct of Community-Based Intervention Studies. In: *Ethics and Epidemiology*. 2nd edition ed. Oxford University Press; 2009.
<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195322934.001.0001/acprof-9780195322934-chapter-6>.
- Philippe Calain, Nathalie Fiore, Marc Poncin, Samia A. Hurst; Research Ethics and International Epidemic Response: The Case of Ebola and Marburg Hemorrhagic Fevers, *Public Health Ethics*, Volume 2, Issue 1, 1 April 2009, Pages 7–29,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/phe/phn037>
- Lisa M. Lee, Charles M. Heilig, Angela White, “Ethical Justification for Conducting Public Health Surveillance Without Patient Consent”, *American Journal of Public Health* 102, no. 1 (January 1, 2012): pp. 38-44. DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2011.300297
- Désy et al. A Tool for Ethical Analysis of Public Health Surveillance Plans, in [CIHR Casebook](#), pp.52-57.

Health Promotion and Behaviour Modification

- Sainsbury, P.G. 2013. Ethical considerations involved in constructing the built environment to promote health. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* 10(1). doi: [10.1007/s11673-012-9423-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-012-9423-6).
- Guttman, N. 2017. Ethical Issues in Health Promotion and Communication Interventions. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Communication*. <http://communication.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228613.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228613-e-118>.
- Tengland, PA. Behavior Change or Empowerment: On the Ethics of Health-Promotion Goals. *Health Care Anal* (2016) 24: 24. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10728-013-0265-0>
- McPhail-Bell, K., Bond, C., Brough, M., & Fredericks, B. (2015). 'We don't tell people what to do': Ethical practice and indigenous health promotion. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, 26(3), 195-199. doi:<http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/10.1071/HE15048>
- Stacy M. Carter, et al. "Evidence, Ethics, and Values: A Framework for Health Promotion", *American Journal of Public Health* 101, no. 3 (March 1, 2011): pp. 465-472. DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2010.195545

Harm Reduction

- Hathaway AD, Tousaw KI. Harm reduction headway and continuing resistance: Insights from safe injection in the city of Vancouver. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 2008;19(1):11-16.
- Fafard, P. Public Health Understandings of Policy and Power: Lessons from INSITE. *J Urban Health* (2012) 89: 905. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-012-9698-2>
- John Kleinig (2008) The Ethics of Harm Reduction, *Substance Use & Misuse*, 43:1, 1-16, DOI: 10.1080/10826080701690680.

SESSION III: JULY 16

NCDs and Public Health Genomics

- Upshur, R. 2013. What does public health ethics tell (or not tell) us about intervening in non communicable diseases? *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* 10(1). doi: [10.1007/s11673-012-9422-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-012-9422-7).
- Vartanian, L.R., and J.M. Smyth. 2013. Primum non nocere: Obesity stigma and public health. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* 10(1). doi: [10.1007/s11673-012-9412-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11673-012-9412-9).
- Stacy M. Carter; The Ethics of Menu Labelling, *Public Health Ethics*, Volume 8, Issue 1, 1 April 2015, Pages 94–97, <https://doi.org/10.1093/phe/phu044>
- David Resnik (2010) Trans Fat Bans and Human Freedom, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 10:3, 27-32, DOI: [10.1080/15265160903585636](https://doi.org/10.1080/15265160903585636)

Chronic Pain and the World Drug Problem

- Goldberg DS, McGee SJ. Pain as a global public health priority. *BMC Public Health*. 2011;11:770. doi:10.1186/1471-2458-11-770.
- Ho A, Buchman D. Pain. In: ten Have H, editor. *Encyclopedia of Global Bioethics*. New York: Springer; 2015.
- King NB, Fraser V (2013) Untreated Pain, Narcotics Regulation, and Global Health Ideologies. *PLoS Med* 10(4): e1001411. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001411.
- The Lancet Oncology (Editorial). Access to opioids: a balance of harms. *The Lancet Oncology* 2017; 18(10), 1285.

Genomics and Public Health: Ethical Considerations in the Next Frontier

- Vayena E, Salathé M, Madoff LC, Brownstein JS (2015) Ethical Challenges of Big Data in Public Health. *PLoS Comput Biol* 11(2): e1003904. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003904>
- Goldenberg AJ, Sharp RR. The Ethical Hazards and Programmatic Challenges of Genomic Newborn Screening. *JAMA*. 2012;307(5):461–462. doi:10.1001/jama.2012.68
- Roberts JS, Dolinoy D, Tarini B. Emerging issues in public health genomics. *Annual review of genomics and human genetics*. 2014;15:461-480. doi:10.1146/annurev-genom-090413-025514.
- Beskow LM, Burke W. Ethical Issues in Genetic Epidemiology. In: *Ethics and Epidemiology*. 2nd edition ed. Oxford University Press; 2009. <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195322934.001.0001/acprof-9780195322934-chapter-9>.
- Hawkins AK, Ho A. Genetic Counselling and the Ethical Issues Around Direct to Consumer Testing. *J Genet Couns*. 2012;21(3):367-73.