

University of Florida
College of Public Health and Health Professions

Course: **Topics in Public Health Ethics**
 PHC 6937, Section 2386
 (1 credit; meets 2 hours per session, 1 time per week for 9 weeks)

Course

Venue: In-person, PPHP, Room G316
 E-Learning: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

Instructor: Bridgett Rahim-Williams, PhD, MPH, MA
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: Ethical issues in public health may be particularly complex because they often: (1) involve individuals and communities who are of minority and/or at-risk status; (2) involve individuals and communities who have low levels of literacy; (3) address sensitive and personal health issues; and (4) occur across a wide variety of settings. Using the Association of Schools Public Health's model curriculum in public health as a springboard, this course will allow students the opportunity to investigate and debate critical issues of the current era. This is a student-led and guest speaker seminar that will require active and full participation across each of the nine two-hour sessions.

Course Goals:

1. To provide students the opportunity to discuss and debate fundamental current public health ethics issues.
2. To provide students the opportunity to formulate their own professional opinions and positions on fundamental current public health ethics issues.
3. To allow students to practice presenting informed arguments that support their ethical positions.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will have:

1. Demonstrated knowledge of at least two public health ethics issues as evidenced by leading a class discussion on an ethics topic and an ethics case study.

2. Demonstrated a working knowledge of major ethical issues in public health as evidenced by presenting informed analyses and arguments during class discussions, in analytical postings on the course E-learning site, and in debates.
3. Demonstrated knowledge of ethical issues in public health as evidenced by a “journal notebook” that includes all analytical postings and interactive student commentary from E-learning course site, class discussions, guest presentations and individual reflections.

Course Assignments

1. a. Post weekly analytical comments on two of the assigned readings for the week. One posting must be from Jennings et al (2003), *Ethics and Public Health: Model Curriculum*. For articles chosen, student comments are to include (1) overview of the issue(s); (2) historical and social context of the issue (s); (3) identification of the major stakeholders and their views on the issue; (4) identification of the ethical dilemma(s); (5) ethical principles that you think apply to the issue(s); and (6) possible resolutions or solutions.
- b. Reply to one other student’s comments following the six criteria above. Students may reply to more than one student’s comments. E-learning discussions are encouraged as these will assist with in-class discussions of the assigned readings.
- c. Print out your postings and bring to each class for in-class discussion.

Postings are to be made at the E-learning site for the course.

Points: 30

Due Dates:

- a. Posting of analysis of two articles: By **12noon** on the **Wednesday** before class.
- b. Posting of response to another student’s comments: By **12 midnight** on the **Wednesday** before class.

2. Lead a class discussion on one of the major topics and case studies on the syllabus. The student leading the class discussion on the date of a guest presenter will begin the discussion following the presenter’s talk and will incorporate information from the guest presentation into the class discussion.

Points: 25

Due Date: As Assigned

3. Create a “Topics in Public Health Ethics” journal notebook/folder for class presentation. The journal will include (1) each individual student’s postings to the class E-Learning course site, (2) a one to two page perspective on the ethical issues presented by four of the five guest presentations, and (3) a final section that provides a summary of principles in public health ethics.

The journal notebook/folder is to be divided by tabs into the eight (8) class topics on the syllabus. All entries are to be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt, Arial or Times New Roman font with standard one-inch margins. Students will present the journal at the final class.

Points: 35

Due Date: Last day of the class

4. Active participation in all class discussions. This includes evidence of completing all readings prior to coming to class.

Points: 10

Due Date: Ongoing

Grading Scale: The final grade will be computed on the basis of the following assessments:

90.0-100% = A; 85.0-89.9% = B+; 80.0-84.9% = B; 75.0-79.9% = C+; 70.0-74.9% = C; 65.0-69.9% = D+; 60.0-64.9% = D; Below 60 % = F

Academic Integrity: Each student is bound by the academic honesty guidelines of the University that state: "The students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the university community. Students who enroll at the university commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the honor code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the honor code is bound by honor to take corrective action. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code."

And, each student, upon submission of an assignment, implies the pledge: "**On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.**"

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities will be accommodated. Students must follow the written University procedure: "Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."

Readings

1. Jennings, B., Kahn, J., Mastroianni, A., & Parker, L.S. (Eds.) (2003). *Ethics and Public Health: Model Curriculum*. Association of Schools of Public Health.

2. Kass, N.E. (2001). An Ethics Framework for Public Health. *American Journal of Public Health, 91*, 1776-1782.

3. Roberts, M.I. & Reich, M.R. (2002). *Ethical Analysis in Public Health. Lancet, 359*, 1055-1059.

4. Freimuth, V.S. et al. (2001). African Americans' Views on Research and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. *Social Science and Medicine, 52*, 797-808.

5. Buchanan, D.R. & Miller, F.G. (2006). Justice and Fairness in the Kennedy Krieger Institute Lead Paint Study: The Ethics of Public Health Research on Less Expensive, Less Effective Interventions. *American Journal of Public Health*, 96, 781-7.
6. Thomasa, D.C. (1997). Bioethics and International Human Rights. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 25, 295-306.
7. Levine, R.J. (2001). Some Recent Developments in the International Guidelines on the Ethics of Research Involving Human Subjects. *Annals of New York Academy of Sciences*, 918, 170-178.
8. Gbadegesin, S. & Wendler, D. (2006). Protecting Communities in Health Research from Exploitation. *Bioethics*, 20, 248-53.
9. Dickert, N. & Sugarman, J. (2005). Ethical Goals of Community Consultation in Research. *American Journal of Public Health*, 95, 1123-7.
10. Francis, L.P. et al. (2005). How Infectious Diseases Got Left Out--And What This Omission Might Have Meant For Bioethics. *Bioethics*, 19, 307-22.
11. Tausig, M. et al. (2006). Taking Sociology Seriously: A New Approach To The Bioethical Problems Of Infectious Disease. *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 28, 838-49.
12. Gray, JR. (2007) HPV Vaccination: Should it be Mandatory for Entry into Public School. *Nursing for Women's Health*, 11(2),133-138.
13. Javitt, G., Berkowits, D., Gostin, LO. Assessing Mandatory HPV Vaccination: Who Should Call the Shots? *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 36(2), 384-395.
14. Campbell, E. & Ross, L.F. (2003). Parental Attitudes Regarding Newborn Screening of PKU and DMD. *American Journal of Medical Genetics A.*, 120, 209-14.
15. Sulmasy, D.P. (2007). Cancer Care, Money, And The Value Of Life: Whose Justice? Which Rationality? *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 10;25, 217-22.
16. Daniels, N. (2006). Equity And Population Health: Toward A Broader Bioethics Agenda. *Hastings Center Reports*, 36(4), 22-35.

Note:

Other readings may be assigned.

Course content, material and assignments may be revised at the discretion of the course professor to facilitate the learning process.

Schedule

Class/ Date	Topic
1	a. Issue: Ethics in Public Health
	b. Case Study: "Protecting Health Information Privacy"
1/8	<p>Readings:</p> <p>1. Jennings et al. pp. 1-32</p> <p>2. Kass, N.E. (2001). An Ethic Framework for Public Health. <i>American Journal of Public Health, 91</i>, 1776-1782.</p> <p>3. Roberts, M.I. & Reich, M.R. (2002). <i>Ethical Analysis in Public Health. Lancet, 359</i>, 1055-1059.</p>
2	a. Issue: Aftermath of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study
	b. Case Study: "Kennedy Krieger Institute Lead Abatement Study"
1/15	<p>Readings:</p> <p>1. Jennings et al. pp. 37-73.</p> <p>2. Freimuth, V.S. et al. (2001). African Americans' Views on Research and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. <i>Social Science and Medicine, 52</i>, 797-808.</p> <p>3. Buchanan, D.R. & Miller, F.G. (2006). Justice And Fairness In The Kennedy Krieger Institute Lead Paint Study: The Ethics Of Public Health Research On Less Expensive, Less Effective Interventions. <i>American Journal of Public Health, 96</i>, 781-7.</p>
3	a. Issue: Ethical Issues in International Settings
1/22	b. Case Study: "Clinical Trials of AZT to Prevent Maternal-Infant Transmission of HIV in Resource Poor Nations"
<p>Guest: Dr. Alba Amaya-Burns, Clinical Associate Professor, BSCH</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>1. Jennings et al. pp. 75-102</p> <p>2. Thomasma, D.C. (1997). Bioethics and International Human Rights. <i>Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, 25</i>, 295-306.</p> <p>3. Levine, R.J. (2001). Some Recent Developments in the International Guidelines on the Ethics of Research Involving Human Subjects. <i>Annals of New York Academy of Sciences, 918</i>, 170-178.</p>

<p>4 1/29</p> <p>Guest: Dr. Nancy Winterbauer, Research Asst Professor, Duval County Health Department</p>	<p>a. Issue: Community Based Research</p> <p>b. Case Study: "Community Participation in Epidemiologic Surveillance and Research Design"</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennings et al. pp. 103-131 2. Gbadegesin, S. & Wendler, D. (2006). Protecting Communities In Health Research From Exploitation. <i>Bioethics</i>, 20, 248-53. 3. Dickert, N. & Sugarman, J. (2005). Ethical Goals Of Community Consultation In Research. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i>, 95, 1123-7.
<p>5 2/5</p> <p>Guest: Ms. Gay Koehler-Sides, HIV/AIDS Program Mgr, Alachua Cty Health Dept</p>	<p>a. Issue: Ethics, Infectious Disease Control, and Health Behavior</p> <p>b. Case Study: "Contact Investigation and the Duty to Warn"</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennings et al. pp. 133-157. 2. Francis, L.P. et al. (2005). How Infectious Diseases Got Left Out--And What This Omission Might Have Meant For Bioethics. <i>Bioethics</i>, 19, 307-22. 3. Tausig, M. et al. (2006). Taking Sociology Seriously: A New Approach To The Bioethical Problems Of Infectious Disease. <i>Sociology of Health and Illness</i>, 28, 838-49.
<p>6 2/12</p> <p>Guest: Ms. Erin Defries, MPH, Lecturer, Epi and Biostats</p>	<p>a. Ethics of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention: HPV Vaccination</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennings et al., pp. 147-150. Gray, JR. (2007) HPV Vaccination: Should it be Mandatory for Entry into Public School. <i>Nursing for Women's Health</i>, 11(2),133-138. 2. Javitt, G., Berkowits, D., Gostin, LO. Assessing Mandatory HPV Vaccination: Who Should Call the Shots? <i>The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics</i>, 36(2), 384-395.
<p>7 2/19</p> <p>Guest: Dr. Ray Moseley, UF Bioethicist</p>	<p>a. Issue: Public Health Genetics</p> <p>b. Case Study: "PKU and Follow-up"</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennings et al., pp. 193-240. 2. Campbell, E, & Ross, L.F. (2003). Parental Attitudes Regarding Newborn Screening Of PKU And DMD. <i>American Journal of Medical Genetics A.</i>, 120, 209-14.

8	a. Issue: Public Health and Health System Reform
2/26	b. Case Study: "The Oregon Health Plan"
	<p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jennings et al., pp. 241-267. 2. Sulmasy, D.P. (2007). Cancer Care, Money, And The Value Of Life: Whose Justice? Which Rationality? <i>Journal of Clinical Oncology</i>, 10;25, 217-22. 3. Daniels, N. (2006). Equity And Population Health: Toward A Broader Bioethics Agenda. <i>Hastings Center Reports</i>, 36(4), 22-35.
9 3/5	Student journal presentations and discussions.