



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The legal the ethical and the humane – medical - 75401*

*Last update 21-05-2013*

*HU Credits: 1*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Medicine*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Ein Karem*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Rabbi Prof. Yigal Shafran*

*Coordinator Email: [merhav@actcom.com](mailto:merhav@actcom.com)*

*Coordinator Office Hours:*

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Igal Shafram

Course/Module description:

The course is based on the assumption that while in the past the medical system could work for the benefit of the patient on the basis of exclusivity in issues such as childbirth, surgery, chemotherapy, old age, fertilization, implantation or sexuality, today many patients make their decisions based on Halachic views even in matters concerned with their health. New doctors must know these aspects during their medical training in order to have tools for dealing with a patient who refuses to be treated due to religious reasons. For example, egg donation or the extent of the treatment given to terminally ill patients. In addition, the intention is to provide students the means by which they could promote optimal treatment in a religious cultural arena in which they operate.

Course/Module aims:

The goal of the course: to gain control and understand the confluence of medicine with the Jewish law. Familiarity with essential Halachic and ethical issues in the modern medical discourse.

Specific objectives:

Learning about the main issues related to both medical practice and Jewish law. For example, fertilization, embryonic stem cells, sexuality, and so forth.

Understanding the mindset of various rabbinical authorities concerning medical issues. For example, genetic testing in the Haredi community, tests during pregnancy in the Hasidic community, and so forth.

Providing doctors with tools to enable them to function in observant populations using knowledge of fundamental terms that affect patients. for Example:

Gynecology in light of the Nida laws, etc..

Studying the characteristics and interrelationships between medicine and Jewish law in the modern world. For Example: transplants, determining death, and so forth.

Understanding Jewish morality and ethics in medical issue from the practical Halachic angle.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

grading: At the end of the course each student will submit a written assignment, 3-4 printed pages relating to the material taught or included in the unit (including self-reading from the bibliography attached and articles from the aforementioned sites) with a focus on innovation and exposure to other aspects beyond those taught in class. Attendance is a mandatory requirement.

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Attendance requirements(%):

none

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Teaching the course will be in the form of an hour long lecture, usually accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation followed by the medical angle given by the doctor accompanying the course. On every session the lecturer will conduct a thorough discussion with the students about the learning material. Students will be given a list of recommended and mandatory bibliography relevant to the learning material*

Course/Module Content:

*Course schedule: [a] informing a patient on his/hers medical condition [b] Organ Transplantation: organ donations, a donation from the dead and Selected Issues concerning determining death. [c] Cloning and interference with nature. [d] Forcing treatment and patient's rights. [e] The doctor's commitment and medical treatment boundaries verse the doctor's personal family life. [f] Medical malpractice. [g] Mental illness and treatment. [h] Medicine and money*

Required Reading:

*- Asia (76 ff): articles, notes and reviews in matters of medicine and Jewish law (17 volumes). Jerusalem: The Schlesinger Institute for Medical Research according to the Torah at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center.*  
*- Sofer Avraham, a. ('86 Onwards). (6 volumes). Soul of Avraham - Laws of Medicine. The Schlesinger Institute for Medical Research according to the Torah at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center..*  
*- Julius Fraus (1978). Biblical & Talmudic Medicine (English translation and editing by Fred Rosner). Sanhedrin Publishing. New York.*  
*- Steinberg, a. (Ed.) (2006). Encyclopedia of Jewish Medical Ethics. Jerusalem: The Schlesinger Institute for Medical Research according to the Torah at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center.*

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 100 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 0 %*

*Project work 0 %*

*Assignments 0 %*

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*Reports 0 %*  
*Research project 0 %*  
*Quizzes 0 %*  
*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*