

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Medical ethics - 96348

Last update 26-09-2023

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: Dr Ruth Kannai

Dr Ruth Kannai

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Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Ruth Kannai,
Dr. Tomer Tzur,
Dr. Ofra Maimon

Course/Module description:

The course is designed for students in pre-clinical years, interested in deepening the dialogue on the physician - patient relationships, patient's and physician's narratives and ethical, philosophical and historical issues, as expressed in commercial movies.

Participants will watch several movies at home and in the classroom and conduct a discussion group on complex ethical issues as shown in the movies.

Students participating in the course will have to attend the classes and submit a course paper (3-4 pages) at the end of the course, which will exhibit ethical and professional questions arising from one movie they choose. They will discuss and demonstrate how the ethical issues are shown in the film. Students will have to address at least one article that deals with the main ethical issue they are discussing.

Course/Module aims:

The course emphasizes the moral and human aspects of the physician's work. Cinematic media, raises ethical questions in doctor relationship - patient, usually from the perspective of the patient, and allows narrative-moral discussion in complex questions such as: the end of life, informed consent, human subjects, genetic discrimination, disables' and mentally ill's rights , and more.

The course will raise humanistic and ethic values, as reflected in commercial movies, and they will be discussed when the cinematic language is stimulating and challenging ethical-humanistic discussion.

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

1. Identify ethical conflicts.
2. Analyze ethical dilemma with "four principles model."
3. Suggest a solution to the dilemma using ethical tools.
4. Show how ethical issues appear in society, law, and media.
5. Distinguish cinematic and aesthetic means used by filmmakers to display ethical issues.

Attendance requirements(%):

80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar:

Participants will watch several movies at home and in the classroom and conduct a discussion group on complex ethical issues as shown in the movies.

Course/Module Content:

Lesson 1:

Introduction: Ethical questions in cinema, the patient's angle. A number of scenes from films that raise questions will be screened.

And ethical and communication problems between physician and patient.

Lesson 2:

Film discussion: "GATTACA"

The film raises a series of ethical questions about prenatal diagnosis and selection of newborns.

Discussion of topics: eugenics, the human genome, genetic discrimination and genetic mapping. Termination of pregnancy and pre-implantation diagnosis of embryos with hereditary diseases, "Dor Yeshorim". Rights of people with physical, mental disabilities. Improving human capacity: cosmetic surgery, bariatric surgery, performance-enhancing drugs, psychiatric drugs.

Lesson 3: Movie: Awakenings. Discussion Topics: Medical trials in humans, informed consent, surrogate decision making, harm versus benefit considerations in drug treatment.

Lesson 4: Movie: Something the Lord Made . Discussion Topics: Medical Breakthroughs. Dangerous experimental procedures. Parental consent to treatment for their minor child. Discrimination in the medical system.

Lesson 5: Movie: Lorenzo's Oil. The process of approving and conducting medical experiments in children with rare diseases, orphan diseases and orphan drugs. The ethics of experimental procedures. Treatment of the helpless by a guardian, when to withhold medical treatment is not helpful. Patient groups, drug companies and the direct links between drug companies and patients and their families.

Lesson 6: Movie: Contagion. The ethics of epidemic treatment. Isolation and Restrictions on Individual Freedom, Priority in Limited Resources.

Lesson 7: Movie: Wit. The protagonist of the film is exposed to a merciless medical-scientific world. She becomes a medical subject, loses control of her destiny, and her life changes beyond recognition. At the end of the film, the question of consent to DNR was discussed, and the patient's right to choose how to end his life and when to stop medical treatment.

Conversation on: "Good Death." Values such as: freedom from pain, mental clarity, accompaniment of family members, reconciliation with God, Financial arrangements, resolving conflicts with close people, respect, meaning, closing a circle and more will be discussed.

We will also talk about: Informed consent. Medical clinical trials. Rights of participants in a medical experiment. Information in the face of compassion, breaking bad news, DNR order and futility in medicine.

Required Reading:

Factors Considered Important at the End of Life by Patients, Family, Physicians, and Other Care Providers, Karen E. Steinhauser, PhD, Nicholas A. Christakis, et al. JAMA. 2000;284:2476-2482

חוק זכויות החולה.

חוק החולה הנוטה למות.

Additional Reading Material:

Suggestions for further reading will be uploaded to the course moodle.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 30 %

Additional information:

*The final work, 3-4 pages long, will include a discussion of one film that will not be taught in the class: the presentation of the film, the protagonists
And the main conflicts in it, (10%). Selecting one ethical-medical issue from the film and presenting it, while*

Mention of the cinematic means illustrating the conflict (20%), analysis of the ethical issue, with reference to

the material studied in the course (other films, articles) (30%) and offer a moral solution to the question under discussion, with

Reference to at least one article (not taught in class) (40%).