

Philosophy 111: Medical Ethics



Spring 2023: Monday/Wednesday 1:30-2:45pm in SH 241

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Should parents have the right to not vaccinate their children? When should we initiate or withdraw life support? Who should make the decision — individuals? Doctors? Hospitals? Families? How should organs be allocated to transplant candidates? Should the rights of fetuses trump those of pregnant women? Are reproductive technologies ethical? How should we fairly distribute scarce and expensive medical resources? Is medical tourism ethically justified? Is physician assisted suicide morally permissible? Should we edit the human germ line? While some of these are new questions precipitated by rapid growth in the biomedical and health-care industries, others have been debated for centuries.

In this course we will draw upon philosophy, anthropology, religion, science, and history to explore how discussing moral issues in bioethics needs to be approached from a variety of perspectives and disciplines.