

Philosophy 400 / 600
Prof. S. Gorovitz
Spring 2023

**Course Description
(Full Syllabus Pending)**

Bioethics in a Pandemic Age. Tuesdays 5:00 - 7:45 pm.

Ethical issues pervade all aspects of health care and health policy. They are especially challenging when we consider pandemics. There have been pandemics for millennia and there will be future pandemics. In this seminar, we will explore what ethical issues specifically arise from pandemics, how those relate to ethical issues in health care generally, and what follows for what individuals, professions, and other organizations ought to do.

The course is open to undergraduate and graduate students from any program in the university, and there is no philosophy prerequisite.

We will begin with a brief historical overview of selected traditional bioethical issues, such as arise in regard to technically assisted reproduction, physician-assisted suicide, genetic testing, making decisions for those who lack competence, obligations to the frail elderly, neonatal intensive care, equity in access to health care, and the like. The interests of students in the course will influence what issues are selected. Some will be addressed by studying relevant legal cases or clinical case studies.

We will then focus on the questions and challenges related to pandemics.

There will be some short quizzes and short essays. Active participation in discussions is required. Each student will pick a specific topic and write a term paper. Requirements for philosophy graduate students in PHI 600 include developing a syllabus for teaching a bioethics course after completing graduate work, among other additional expectations. For graduate students from other programs, we will decide collaboratively on appropriate requirements. There is no textbook.