

# Honors 195I: Biomedical Ethics, Health Policy, and Society Fall 2018 - Topics and Assignments for Class Meetings

Dr. Burd and Dr. Hildebrand

## Session 1

August 21, 2018

### Introduction to Health Care

- 1) What are Human Rights? Write a definition for Human Rights and write a list of accepted human rights. Form a group of three people and share. Share with class. Video: <https://www.youthforhumanrights.org/what-are-human-rights/>
- 2) Define features of health care that you think Americans should have available to them.
- 3) Begin to discuss individual and social behaviors, attitudes, and situations as well as public policies that affect health care.
- 4) Review some data and graphs from The Commonwealth Fund 2017 report and other sources.
- 5) In-class activity: view and discuss parts of the video “Sicko”.
- 6) Select choices for group assignment. Decide Group 1.

*Assignment for this class:* in-class discussion

\*\*\*\*\*

## Session 2

August 28, 2018

### Health Care in America and Other Developed Nations

*Assignment for All Students: written assignment*

- A) **All students** shall interview his/her mother, father, or friend of the family to obtain details about a health insurance plan for family coverage. Obtain the following information and present a list of #1-7 and, for #8, provide your written opinion (about half a page) about the coverage provided by this insurance. This written assignment should be not more than **one-page, single-spaced**. Submit this paper to the D2L site **BEFORE** class:
1. Name of health insurance company
  2. Type of coverage (HMO, PPO, other)
  3. Cost per year
  4. Cost per doctor visit
  5. Coverage provided for hospitalization
  6. Coverage provided for mental health services
  7. Lifetime coverage provided
  8. **Discuss your opinion about these health insurance benefits** (about half a page).

*Individual Work*

- B) **Reading Assignment: All students:** read articles in D2L site listed for **ALL** students and **BEFORE CLASS** Watch the 1 hr PBS video “Sick Around the World” with T.R. Reid from his book “The Healing of America” (2009) <https://arizona.kanopy.com/video/sick-around-world>. A second video is available from Reid’s lecture on his 2009 book and is **OPTIONAL** but helpful [http://library.fora.tv/2009/09/14/TR\\_Reid\\_The\\_Healing\\_of\\_America](http://library.fora.tv/2009/09/14/TR_Reid_The_Healing_of_America) .

C) **Assignment Group 1: Role Playing Presentations to U.S. Senate Committee on Health and Human Welfare.**

“Current U.S. Senators” will give short presentations explaining, arguing for, and supporting with data their position (below) to the Senate Committee (rest of the class) on the:

1. U.S. health care should be Medicare for all
2. U.S. should follow health care plan in Great Britain

3. U.S. should follow health care plan in Germany
4. No change should be made in the current U.S. approaches to health care

**Read indicated articles on D2Lwebsite** and any others you need to support your position.

**Oral Assignment: Five minute** presentations by **four** students who should try to sell the Senate Committee on the health care system they are presenting. Senate committee is represented by rest of the class.

**Written Assignment: two-page, single-spaced paper** on the topic of your presentation advocating your position over the others and indicating why this position should be supported. (It is not necessary that you honestly support the position, only that you provide the rationale for why it should be supported.) Include a third page for references cited in the paper.

*Individual submissions and presentations.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **September 4 - NO CLASS**

## **September 11- NO CLASS**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Session 3**

**September 18, 2018**

## **Cost of Health Care - Discussion and Debate**

*Assignment for this class:* all must read indicated articles on the D2L site.

*Assignment for this class:* all must prepare a list of what they see as the potential solutions to reducing the cost of health care in U.S. and turn in the list at the **START of class**.

### **Assignment Group 2: Cost of Health Care Debate**

**Read** appropriate articles on the D2L site

**Oral Assignment:** There are **four** students in this group: two on the Pro side and two on the Con side of the statement: *to reduce costs, we need to limit our health care choices and base the choices on public health outcomes data.* This might include reducing choices of devices or drugs that physicians may select, reducing patient compensation for medical negligence or incompetent treatment, not ordering unnecessary medical tests, and changing the way services are compensated (reduce fee-for service and replace with physician on salary, insurance compensation to doctors and hospitals for complete treatments not by test or doctor visit), and continuing to limit administrative costs of insurance companies to 20% or lower as required under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). All these options must be based on outcomes data. Also, outcomes data from all physicians and hospitals should be public as part of this proposal.

### **Debate:**

PRO - In favor of reducing choice.

CON - Against reducing choice.

**Written Assignment: two-page, single-spaced paper** that supports your side of the argument (papers must be submitted **BEFORE** class). Present specific points as arguments during the debate and in the paper. Include a third page for references cited in the paper.

*Individual work.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Session 4**

**September 25, 2018**

## **Aging and End of Life Care and Choices**

Assisted living and nursing homes; assisted suicide; right-to-die laws; role of wills, legal documents (e.g. living wills), and family; do-not-resuscitate directives from individuals

**Assignment:** all will read and be able to discuss the appropriate articles on the D2L site.

### **Assignment for Group 3: Death and Dying Debate**

**Oral Assignment:** There are **four** students in this group: two are pro and two are con.

#### **Debate:**

PRO - Doctors have a vital role to play in all aspects of health care including following a patient's wishes for end of life treatment, for guardians' decisions (children and executor of a living will), and to end patient suffering.  
CON - Doctors should not participate in ending a patient's life for any reason.

Under PRO this includes cases where the patient can administer the fatal drug and cases where the doctor does this for the patient.

As much as possible, support your argument with data.

**Written Assignment:** each student will write a **two-page, single-spaced paper** summary supporting their position in this debate. Include a third page of cited references.

#### ***Individual Work***

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Session 5**

**October 2, 2018**

### **Design for a New Health Care System in America**

#### ***Assignment for ALL in Preparation for Class:***

Review global and US Health Care Plans from readings, videos, and other discussion topics in the course.

Review information on Concept Maps at: <https://www.msu.edu/~luckie/ctools/>

Review articles on the D2L site.

Bring to class your list of health care ideas/concepts for how to develop an improved US health care system.

#### ***In-Class Assignment:***

The class will divide into six groups of three-four students and discuss a list of concepts related to improving health care in America. In-class, the groups will then develop a concept map to demonstrate the relationship between the all aspects of health care in U.S. including personnel, services, costs, etc. related to health care.

The concept maps will be used to discuss the components that need to be included in the design of a new or modification of an existing health care system for the United States.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Session 6**

**October 9, 2018**

### **Genetic Testing**

**Assignment:** all will read and be able to discuss the appropriate articles on the D2L site.

Also, all will review the 23andme website and be ready to discuss in class the positive and potentially negative aspects of submitting your DNA to this site. The articles for all to read on this topic will help inform your ideas on this topic.

<https://www.23andme.com/>

<https://www.23andme.com/dna-reports-list/>

**Assignment for Group 4:** **Two** students in this group.

The two students in this group will work together to give a presentation that includes the **positive and negative aspects and effects** of running genetic testing in general for ancestry and genetic defects (as with 23andme) and for specific genetic diseases in your child, for yourself, or getting results on genetic testing from a family member. Specific

articles will be available on the D2L website, but the students in this group should identify additional references on their own.

Submit **one two-page paper, single spaces**, two pages with a **third page for references** that is written and approved by both students, and **both students participate in a five minute presentation** (each student presents for 5 minutes).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **October 16 – NO CLASS**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Session 7**

**October 23, 2018**

## **Genetic and Genomic Techniques in Health Care**

*Assignment:* all will read and be able to discuss the appropriate articles on the D2L site.

*Assignment for Group 5.*

**Oral Assignment: Role Playing Presentations to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health and Human Welfare.**

Roles:

Director of the National Institutes of Health

President of a U.S. biomedical company in San Francisco developing clinical genomic treatments

MD/PhD biomedical ethicist at Columbia University in New York

Basic scientist (PhD) in Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the University of Arizona

Mother with a mitochondrial genetic disorder

These **FIVE** individuals will give short (5 minute) presentations to the Senate Committee (rest of the class) on whether basic and clinical research should be permitted with U.S. Federal funds on CRISPR-Cas9 treatment for genetic disorders during *in vitro* fertilization and be used in human medical care. Beyond research, the presenters will address whether clinical treatment in humans should be permitted with these techniques. The presenters will represent the likely opinion the roles they are playing in this discussion.

**Written Assignment:** submit a **two-page, single space paper** on the ideas represented by your role in the presentation. Include a third page of references cited in the paper.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Session 8**

**October 30, 2018**

## **Opioid Addiction in America**

**Assignment**

**Team Project:** Five teams of 4-5 students will work together on a team project. The team will do a literature review on opioid addiction, interview a professional who works or interacts with addicted individuals, write a report (two pages, single spaced, with a third page of references), and present a summary of findings.

Each team will decide who does:

Literature review

Interview (all need to agree who will be interviewed and decide the questions)

Writes the **two-page, single space paper** (all need to read and approve a draft and the final paper)

Presents the five minute oral summary (presented during Session 8)

In teams with a fifth person, two students might participate in the interview or writing the paper. Indicate on the literature cited part of the written paper, the student responsible for each role on the project.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Course Get Together with Dinner**

TBD 5:15 PM

Burd/Hildebrand residence

\*\*\*\*\*