Phil 490/500: Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Medicine
Jan 2016

Location: Clearihue B315      Time: M & Th 1:00 – 2:20
Instructor: Jacob Stegenga   Office Hours: W 12:00 – 2:00     Email: stegenga@uvic.ca

Description
Medicine is among our most important institutions. Though its aim is practical, medicine is shot through with conceptual commitments and theoretical assumptions, its basic tools rely on causal hypotheses supported to varying degrees by inductive inferences, and medical research is developed in a complex political and economic nexus. Thus medicine is a prime subject for philosophical analysis. This seminar is organized into four parts:

I. Concepts
II. Categories and Kinds
III. Causation and Evidence
IV. Commerce and Culture

The seminar covers a range of traditional philosophical areas, from philosophy of science to political theory (however, the seminar only indirectly touches on issues in medical ethics), and the readings come from a range of philosophical traditions.

Objectives
This seminar has three general objectives:

• *Philosophy of Science and Medicine:* participants will develop knowledge of some central issues in philosophy of science and philosophy of medicine
• *Fundamental Skills:* participants will increase their proficiency in critical reading and analytic writing
• *Meta-philosophical Insight:* participants will develop their understanding of a variety of modes of philosophical work, including conceptual, historical, phenomenological, formal, and naturalistic methods.

Texts
All readings will be provided in electronic form.

Evaluation (undergraduates)

• 250-word response to one reading per week (due on Sundays, 6:00 pm). 35%
• Participation. 20%
• Paper: 2000-2500 words. One-page outline due Mar 16 (5%), a full draft must be printed and brought to class on Mar 31 (10%), and the final paper is due April 11 (30%). 45%

Evaluation (graduate students)

• 250-word response to one reading per week (due on Sundays, 6:00 pm). 25%
• Participation. 15%
• Presentation. 15%
• Paper: 3000-3500 words. One-page outline due Mar 16 (5%), a full draft must be printed and brought to class on Mar 31 (10%), and the final paper is due April 11 (30%). 45%
# Schedule

**Introduction**

**Part I: Concepts**
- **7-Jan** Boorse. “Health as a Theoretical Concept”
- **11-Jan** Cooper. “Disease”
- **14-Jan** Ereshefsky. “Defining ‘Health’ and ‘Disease’”
- **18-Jan** Stegenga. “Effectiveness of Medical Interventions” (Chapter Two)
- **21-Jan** Discussion

**Part II: Categories and Kinds**
- **25-Jan** Hacking. “The Looping Effects of Human Kinds”
- **28-Jan** Ratcliffe. “Depression, Guilt, and Emotional Depth”
- **1-Feb** Tsou. “The Importance of History for Philosophy of Psychiatry”
- **4-Feb** Cooper. “Why Hacking is Wrong about Human Kinds”
- **8-Feb** reading week
- **11-Feb** reading week

**Part III: Causation and Evidence**
- **15-Feb** Douglas. “Inductive Risk and Values in Science”
- **18-Feb** Worrall. “Evidence in Medicine and Evidence-Based Medicine” (Parts 1-3)
- **22-Feb** Worrall. “Evidence in Medicine and Evidence-Based Medicine” (Part 4)
- **25-Feb** Steel. “Extrapolation, Capacities, and Mechanisms”
- **Feb-29** Stegenga. “Measuring Effectiveness” (Chapter Eight & Appendix Four and Five)
- **3-Mar** Discussion

**Part IV: Commerce and Society**
- **7-Mar** Brown. “Politics, Method, and Medical Research”
- **10-Mar** Kidd & Carel. “Epistemic Injustice and Illness”
- **14-Mar** de Melo-Martin & Intermann. “Feminist Resources for Biomedical Research”
- **17-Mar** Peer Review Session
- **21-Mar** Reiss & Kitcher. “Biomedical Research, Neglected Diseases, and Well-Ordered Science”
- **24-Mar** Kukla. “Author TBD’: Radical Collaboration in Contemporary Biomedical Research
- **28-Mar** Stegenga. “Concluding Thoughts” (Chapter Twelve)
- **31-Mar** Writing workshop
- **4-Apr** Writing workshop