

HPS 0612: Mind and Medicine
Spring 2025
Tu/Th 2:00-2:50pm
University of Pittsburgh

Instructor: Jonathan Fuller (jonathan.fuller@pitt.edu)
Office: 1109F Cathedral of Learning
Office Hours: Th 3:00-4:00pm or by appointment
Classroom: 157 Benedum Hall

TAs:

Rose Gatfield-Jeffries (rgatfield@pitt.edu)
Zhonghao Lu (lu_zhonghao@pitt.edu)
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Course Description:

This course will provide an entry-level introduction to the fields of philosophy of medicine and philosophy of psychiatry. Through readings, lecture and discussions, we will explore philosophical topics beyond traditional bioethical problems, including: the nature of medicine, concepts of disease and mental disorder, classification and kinds in medicine and psychiatry, explanation in medicine and psychiatry, evidence-based medicine, antipsychiatry and medical nihilism, and medical AI.

Students will come away with an understanding of some of the fundamental philosophical problems underlying science and practice in medicine and psychiatry. This course is part of a core sequence leading to certification in the Conceptual Foundations of Medicine Certificate Program and is a companion course to HPS 0613 (Morality and Medicine) but may be taken independently. The course will be of particular interest to pre-medical and pre-health care students.

Recitation: One hour per week

Recitation Sections:

Day/Time	Name	Location
Mon 1:00-1:50pm	Rose	CL00116
Mon 2:00-2:50pm	Rose	CL00139
Mon 3:00-3:50pm	Rose	WWPH5201
Wed 1:00-1:50pm	Lu	CL02309
Thu 1:00-1:50pm	Lu	CL02322
Thu 3:00-3:50pm	Lu	IS00411
Fri 11:00-11:50am	Zach	IS00411
Fri 1:00-1:50pm	Zach	CL02309
Fri 2:00-2:50pm	Zach	CL00229

Class Preparation and Resources

Content and discussion in this class is based on readings. You should expect to do more reading for this class than you might do in classes outside the humanities. Class preparation is expected to take approximately 3-5 hours weekly. Please come to lecture prepared to discuss the preparation material for that week, listed in the syllabus. All preparation material is required unless noted as 'optional'. Readings that can be done after the Tuesday class and before the Thursday class are preceded by a 'Th:'. Recitations will review the previous week's lectures and preparation material and will be discussion-based. Please come to recitation having attended/reviewed the previous week's lectures and ready to discuss the readings and material, especially the primary Thursday reading.

The required textbook for the course is:

Stegenga, Jacob. 2018. *Care & Cure: An Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

The textbook is available for purchase or rental as a paperback or e-copy through Chicago Press (<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/C/bo29193227.html>) as well as Amazon.

All required readings will be uploaded to Canvas. All Philosophers on Medicine podcast episodes are available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and www.philosophersonmedicine.com.

Discussion and Class Technology

Discussion will take place in lecture and in recitation. Participation marks will be awarded for participating in discussion in recitation and lecture.

All course materials will be provided on Canvas, including readings, lecture notes, and lecture recordings. Most materials will be provided on the main course Canvas page. Virtual in-class Discussions will also be facilitated there. However, you will submit recitation assignments and will receive announcements from you TA through your recitation section-specific Canvas page.

Lectures will be recorded and posted to the main course Canvas page. Please be beware that glitches in the recordings are always possible and you should attend lectures both to make sure you have access to the lecture content and to earn lecture participation marks. Lectures will *not* be hybrid. Lectures will take place in-person; there will be no option for virtual lecture attendance.

Please note that no other recordings of lectures are permitted, and official lecture recordings are not to be shared, copied, or transmitted. Unauthorized use, recording, copying, or transmission of course materials, including lectures, recitations, lecture and recitation notes, and lecture recordings, is an academic integrity violation (see POLICIES).

Recitations will *not* be recorded.

Accommodations

If you require accommodation for health or other reasons, please reach out to your instructor or TA (or both), as the situation requires. The earlier the better, if possible. If you have an accommodation granted by Pitt Disability Resources and Services (DRS) relevant to this course, please send it to your instructor (and your TA if it is relevant to recitation). If you miss an assessment for health or personal reasons, please be in touch as early as possible.

Evaluation:

10% Lecture participation (20 / ~23 lectures x 0.5% = 10%)

You will be evaluated on participation in lecture discussion through submission of in-class responses. Participation marks will be evaluated in approximately 23 lectures (i.e., you can miss approximately 3 lectures without penalty). Late lecture participation assignments will not be accepted without special arrangement with your TA.

10% Weekly recitation participation (10/11 recitations x 1% = 10%)

You will be evaluated on attendance and participation in recitations (excluding exam weeks). Your TA will discuss ways to earn marks for participation. You will be graded on 10 recitations (i.e., you can miss 1 recitation without penalty). Missed recitation participation marks cannot be made up without special arrangement with your TA.

10% Weekly recitation assignment (10/10 x 1% = 10%)

You will submit a weekly recitation assignment on Canvas (starting Jan. 19) that will be based on the primary Thursday reading from the previous week. The assignment will be graded for completion and effort. **The deadline for submission of a particular week's assignment is 11:59PM on Sunday preceding that week's recitations.** Late recitation assignments will not be accepted without special arrangement with your TA. There is no recitation assignment due preceding exam weeks or the first Sunday of Spring Break. The last assignment will be due April 13.

70% Three two-part exams (22% + 22% + 26% = 70%)

12% In-class Exam 1 – February 11, 2024 (on Weeks 2-4)

10% In-recitation Exam 1 – Week 6 (on primary readings from Weeks 2-4)

12% In-class Exam 2 – March 18, 2024 (on Weeks 6-8)

10% In-recitation Exam 2 – Week 11 (on primary readings from Weeks 6-8)

16% Final Exam (Exam 3, classroom component) – April 29, 2024 from 4-5:50pm (on Weeks 11-14)

10% Final Exam (Exam 3, recitation component) – April 29, 2024 from 4-5:50pm (on primary readings from Weeks 11-14)

Grading Scale

A+ 97.0 - 100	B+ 87.0 - 89.99	C+ 77.0 - 79.99	D+ 67.0 - 69.99	F <60
A 93.0 - 96.99	B 83.0 - 86.99	C 73.0 - 76.99	D 63.0 - 66.99	
A- 90.0 - 92.99	B- 80.0 - 82.99	C- 70.0 - 72.99	D- 60.0 - 62.99	

Schedule (subject to change):

*Note: recitations begin on **13 January 2024**.

Week 1 (Jan 9):

Course introduction (No recitations this week)

Preparation

None.

Week 2 (Jan 14 and 16):

What is medicine?

Learning Objectives

- Consider the boundaries and scope of medicine and how they are influenced by contested factors such as the goals of medicine.

Preparation

- Th: Broadbent *Philosophy of Medicine* “The goal of medicine” (except 2.4 and 2.6)
 - Optional: Philosophers on Medicine podcast: ‘What is medicine?’
-

Week 3 (Jan 21 and 23):

What are health and disease?

Learning Objectives

- Analyze the concepts of health disease, especially whether they are ‘natural’ or ‘normative’.

Preparation

- *Care & Cure* Ch 2 (except 2.6)
 - Th: Boorse “Health as a theoretical concept” (read first two pages and sections III + IV)
 - Optional: Philosophers on Medicine podcast: ‘Primer on health and disease’
-

Week 4 (Jan 28 and 30):

Medicalization

Learning Objectives

- Analyze the phenomenon of medicalization, particularly the potential medicalization of sadness by the DSM

Preparation

- *Care & Cure* 6.2, 6.3, bereavement (pg. 204-205 of paper textbook)
- Th: Horwitz & Wakefield *The Loss of Sadness* “The concept of depression” (up to p. 19)
- Optional: Philosophers on Medicine podcast: ‘Mental disorders and the DSM’

Week 5 (Feb 4 and 6):
Exam 1 Review

Week 6 (Feb 11 and 13):
In-class Exam 1 (Feb 11) and Illness (Feb 13)

Learning Objectives

- Understand how the explanatory gap might preclude biomedical explanation of illness and the alternative provided by phenomenology.

Preparation

- Th: *Care and Cure* 2.6
 - Th: Carel *Illness* “The body in illness”
-

Week 7 (Feb 18 and 20):
Disease kinds

Learning Objectives

- Reflect on what it means to ask whether diseases are real and on whether diseases and mental disorders are natural kinds.

Preparation

- Simon “Realism and constructivism in medicine”
 - Th: Cooper *Psychiatry and Philosophy of Science* “Natural history-based explanations” (except 4.1, 4.2.3, and 4.5)
 - Optional: Philosophers on Medicine podcast: ‘Are diseases real?’
-

Week 8 (Feb 25 and 27):
Reductionism and biological psychiatry

Learning Objectives

- Consider the varieties, advantages and limits of reductionism in medicine and psychiatry and whether psychiatry should embrace or resist the biomedical model.

Preparation

- *Care & Cure* 5.1, 5.2, 12.2
 - Th: Murphy “Conceptual foundations of biological psychiatry” (except section 3)
-

**Week 9 (March 3-7):
Spring Break**

**Week 10 (March 11 and 13):
Exam 2 Review**

**Week 11 (March 18 and 20):
In-class Exam 2 (March 18), Medical AI (March 20)**

Learning Objectives

- Reflect on the strengths and limitations of medical AI and the implications of its potential lack of explainability.

Preparation

- Th: Intro to AI reading
 - Th: London “Artificial intelligence and black box medical decisions”
 - Optional: JAMA, ‘Machine Learning For Medical Image Analysis - How It Works’ (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKnoyiNxflk>)
-

**Week 12 (March 25 and 27):
Evidence-based medicine 1 - Randomized trials**

Learning Objectives

- Evaluate EBM’s position on the epistemic superiority of randomized controlled trials.

Preparation

- *Care & Cure* 7.2, 7.3, 7.5
 - Th: Worrall “What evidence in evidence-based medicine?”
 - Optional: Philosophers on Medicine podcast: ‘Evidence-based medicine’
-

**Week 13 (April 1 and 3):
Evidence-based medicine 2 – Mechanisms and evidential diversity**

Learning Objectives

- Evaluate EBM’s ‘black box’ stance and the alternative provided by evidential diversity.

Preparation

- *Care & Cure* 7.4, 7.6, 7.7, 9.2
 - Th: Howick “Exposing the Vanities—and a Qualified Defense—of Mechanistic Reasoning in Health Care Decision Making”
-

**Week 14 (April 8 and 10):
Antipsychiatry and Medical nihilism**

Learning Objectives

- Evaluate criticisms of psychiatry and medicine, especially Szasz's 'myth of mental illness' and Stegenga's 'medical nihilism'

Preparation

- *Care & Cure* 8.2, 10.3, 12.3
 - Szasz "The myth of mental illness" (first four pages)
 - Th: Stegenga *Medical Nihilism* "Medical nihilism"
 - Optional: Philosophers on Medicine podcast: 'Medical nihilism'
-

**Week 15 (April 15 and 17):
Exam 3 Review**

**Week 16 (April 22):
TBD (No recitations this week)**

**Exam 3 (Final Exam):
April 29 from 4-5:50pm**

University/Instructor Policies and Resources:

An extensive list of university classroom policies and statements is available here:
<https://teaching.pitt.edu/resources/syllabus-checklist/#Accessibility>

You are responsible for knowing them and adhering to them.

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Academic Integrity

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating

University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit the [Academic Integrity Guide](#) for an overview of the topic. For hands-on practice, complete the [Academic Integrity Modules](#).

Use of Generative AI

The use of Generative AI to author assessments in this course is prohibited.

Classroom Recording

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom or recitation lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Classroom Climate

Students should be able to learn in a safe and accessible environment and openly express their views. At the same time, speech or behavior violating university policies will not be permitted and respectful discourse and behavior is expected. Please let me know if you have any concerns.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University's Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University's mission. For more information about policies, procedures, and practices, visit the [Civil Rights & Title IX Compliance web page](#).

I ask that everyone in the class strive to help ensure that other members of this class can learn in a supportive and respectful environment. If there are instances of the aforementioned issues, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, by calling 412-648-7860, or emailing titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu. Reports can also be [filed online](#). You may also choose to report this to a faculty/staff member; they are required to communicate this to the University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. If you wish to maintain complete confidentiality, you may also contact the University Counseling Center (412-648-7930).

Disability Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Your Well-being

College/Graduate school can be an exciting and challenging time for students. Taking time to maintain your well-being and seek appropriate support can help you achieve your goals and lead

a fulfilling life. It can be helpful to remember that we all benefit from assistance and guidance at times, and there are many resources available to support your well-being while you are at Pitt. You are encouraged to visit [Thrive@Pitt](#) to learn more about well-being and the many campus resources available to help you thrive.

If you or anyone you know experiences overwhelming academic stress, persistent difficult feelings and/or challenging life events, you are strongly encouraged to seek support. In addition to reaching out to friends and loved ones, consider connecting with a faculty member you trust for assistance connecting to helpful resources.

The [University Counseling Center](#) is also here for you. You can call 412-648-7930 at any time to connect with a clinician. If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal, please call the University Counseling Center at any time at 412-648-7930. You can also contact Resolve Crisis Network at 888-796-8226. If the situation is life threatening, call Pitt Police at 412-624-2121 or dial 911.