

BIOET 502 Spring 2018

Macro-Perspectives in Bioethics: Public Health Ethics, Policy, and Law (3)

Weds. 2:30 – 5:30 pm; 107 Willard Building, University Park
Instructor: Jonathan H. Marks; Director, Bioethics Program, Penn State

What are public health ethics, population health ethics, and macro-bioethics? In this course, we explore a variety of topics, with an emphasis on systemic ethical issues. We will address theories of justice and health; the relationship between public health ethics, health policy, and health law; the framing of public health problems and their solutions (from “personal responsibility” to “social and environmental determinants”); the ethical obligations of institutional actors—including the WHO; comparative health care systems; the global burden of disease—including NCDs—and the distribution of health care resources; access to essential medicines; the ethics of vaccination policy; the ethics of stigma, “nudging,” and other forms of health promotion; the ethics of pandemics, public health emergencies, and disaster response; the ethics of humanitarian intervention; health disparities and inequalities; systemic issues in empirical public health research; food systems, food security, food sovereignty, and health; the relationship between human rights, human security, and public health; the built environment, occupational environments, and health; environmental toxins, “fracking,” and health; climate change and health. This course is an interdisciplinary course required for the dual-title Ph.D. in bioethics. However, we welcome interested students from other programs—including graduate students in public health, biobehavioral health, health policy, clinical and translational science, food and nutrition, health humanities, life sciences, communication science, environmental science; and students in law, international affairs, medicine, and nursing. For further info, email: marks@psu.edu

About the Instructor: Jonathan has participated as an expert in public health ethics in many national and international fora, including meetings hosted by the World Health Organization and the Institute of Medicine. He spent a decade in full-time legal practice as a barrister in London, where he retains academic membership of Matrix Chambers (many of whose members specialize in human rights law). From 2004 - 6, he held the Greenwall Fellowship in Bioethics and Health Policy at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins Universities. From 2009-15, he was a fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard working on institutional corruption.