
Ethical Decision Making

Academic course



Level of course unit: Master

ECTS: 5

Language of Instruction: English

Course Dates: tbd

Course will take place on site at the MCI in Innsbruck

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will have a differentiated understanding of theoretical and practical approaches to ethics. They should be able to

- identify ethical problems within present-day clinical practice, scientific medicine, and health policy;
- make ethical decisions by applying ethical principles (e.g. of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights);
- recognize conflicts between the health care professional's obligations to patients and to society and identify the reasons for the conflicts;
- reflect critically on ethical and human rights issues in health and social policy;
- face the conflicts between ethical and business-oriented approaches to health care delivery;
- analyze current and future issues from a bioethical perspective;
- understand the historical evolution of the human rights concept, and why it is so central in today's academic discourse, policy making and ethics;
- explain how human rights and equality, justice and equity are key in allocating such as scarce health care resources;

- explain how and to what extent human rights are relative or universal and can determine our decision-making;
- understand and explain why and how solidarity and social responsibility constitute the foundation of any fair society.

Course Contents:

The role of intuition in ethical decision-making
Introduction and application of inductive, case-based methods in bioethics
Differentiation between ethical and non-ethical decision-making
Approaches to human dignity and human rights
Platonicity (ethics, decision [choice & reason], utility [incentives], biases)
Status syndrome (the ethics of social gradient & social justice)
Uncertainties and risks in complex decision making
Human vulnerability
The emergence of human rights discourse, theoretical-philosophical reflections on human rights
Universality and relativity of human rights in ethical decision making, implication of cultural diversity
The link between human rights and ethics, Biases in decisions (choices under uncertainty)
Thinking with feelings, the value of empathy
Exploring the limits of knowledge, objectivity and accountability
Privacy and confidentiality

Contact Person for registration:

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Application Deadline: 15.10.2022

Available Spots: 3

Fee: EUR 20, 70 (Austrian Students' Union Fee)




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