

**Medical Diplomacy and Anthropology
BioCEP**

**Prepared by:
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Classroom hours: 40 hours (including lectures, debates, and presentations)
Off-site visits: 15 hours (five visits)

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

This course examines how culture and society are organized and impacted by issues of health. Discussions center around health care demands within a global environment and topics include the definition of disease, human trafficking, and disaster prevention and management. Students will explore medical diplomacy as a form of international relations in which medical and health care assets and resources are used to encourage positive relations between nations and/or exchange specific benefits between nations.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students should have at least one year of college level biology, human anthropology, or public health. All students will be expected to attend class regularly and to keep up with assigned reading. Students will be graded based on: a student presentation on a cross-cultural dilemma in the area of medical diplomacy, anthropology, or public health, a final paper that the student writes based on the presentation and the comments emerging from his or her presentation, and student participation in the class. The paper will be due by Sept 1, 2011. Selected papers will be considered for publication in the Columbia University Journal of Bioethics.

Topics

1. Introduction to Cross-cultural Bioethics
2. Overview Medical Anthropology, Cultural history of Thailand
3. Definitions of health, disease, illness; Educating the medically uneducated
4. Buddhism and role of Physician; Medical Decision-making in Thailand
5. Body and Meaning from a religious/cultural perspective and Patient-Practitioner- Impact of AIDs
6. Overview of Medical Diplomacy
7. Disaster, non-disaster relief/Global Healthcare Inequalities
8. Trafficking Human Beings/Sex Workers
9. Trafficking of Human Organs
10. Conflicts Between Science and Religion
11. Evolution
12. Medical Sustainability/Genetics of species/Identification of homo sapians
13. Genetics of Ethnicity and Gender-Cloning the Neanderthal Man

Selected Readings

1. Bosek MS. Respecting a patient's religious values: what does this require?
2. JONAS Healthc Law Ethics Regul. 2008 Oct-Dec;10(4):100-5. Review.
3. Chattopadhyay S., Religion, spirituality, health and medicine: why should Indian physicians care? J Postgrad Med. 2007 Oct-Dec;53(4):262-6. Review.
4. Epstein M., Sociological and ethical issues in transplant commercialism. Curr Opin Organ Transplant. 2009 Apr;14(2):134-9. Review.

5. Gupta V, Khadgawat R, Sachdeva MP. Significance of genome-wide association studies in molecular anthropology. *Genet Test Mol Biomarkers*. 2009 Dec;13(6):711-5. Review.
6. Gerber A, Hentzelt F, Lauterbach KW., Can evidence-based medicine implicitly rely on current concepts of disease or does it have to develop its own definition? *J Med Ethics*. 2007 Jul;33(7):394-9. Review
7. Hales S, Zimmermann C, Rodin G.,The quality of dying and death.,*Arch Intern Med*. 2008 May 12;168(9):912-8. Review.
8. Kim SH, Ye YM, Palikhe NS, Kim JE, Park HS.,Genetic and ethnic risk factors associated with drug hypersensitivity. *Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2010 Aug;10(4):280-90. Review
9. Kurian AW., BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations across race and ethnicity: distribution and clinical implications. *Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol*. 2010 Feb;22(1):72-8. Review.
10. Loike, J.D., Fischbach, R.L., Women's Reproductive Technology: Ethical Standpoints
11. Loike, J. D. and M.D. Tendler. Homo Sapiens: Reformulating the Definition Of Species. *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, 12: 343-350, 2002.
12. Santoro G, Wood MD, Merlo L, Anastasi GP, Tomasello F, Germanò A., The anatomic location of the soul from the heart, through the brain, to the whole body, and beyond: a journey through Western history, science, and philosophy. *Neurosurgery*. 2009 Oct;65(4):633-43; discussion 643. Review.
13. Whyte SR., Health identities and subjectivities: the ethnographic challenge. *Med Anthropol Q*. 2009 Mar;23(1):6-15. Review
14. Zwart H.,Genomics and identity: the bioinformatisation of human life. *Med Health Care Philos*. 2009 Jun;12(2):125-36. Epub 2009 Feb 26. Review.

Tentative Faculty

Various lectures in Medical Diplomacy and Anthropology will be given by the following faculty in Thailand (participating faculty in India will be available at a later date):

- Dr. Orawan Quansri, Director, Assistant, ASEAN Institute for Health Development
- Dr. Nate Hongkailert, ASEAN Institute for Health Development
- Dr. Lerpong Wongsuthichoti, ASEAN Institute for Health Development
- Dr. Pinitr Ratanakul, Director of Religious Studies, Mahidol University
- Dr. Chulathida Chomchai, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Mahidol University International College.
- Faculty from the Ministry of Health, Thailand
- Chantawipa Apisuk, Empower Foundation, Thailand
- Dr. Jeramy Simons, Columbia University's Center for Bioethics
- Dr. Nathan Katz, Professor of Religious Studies at Florida International University in Miami.
- Dr. Jennifer Miller, Director of Bioethics International (BEI), Jennifer Miller is a leading expert disaster preparedness and resource allocation ethics.

Off-Site Visits

The following visits will be organized in Thailand (visits in India will be to similar organizations and scheduled at a later date).

- AIDS Hospice- Wat Pra Baht Nam Phu- Ayutthaya
- Empower Foundation- NGO for Sex Workers
- Ministry of Health- Emerging Infections
- Ministry of Health- Disaster Management. Lessons from Tsunamis
- Organ Transplantation in Medical Tourism Hospitals