

# Medical Ethics and War

HUMS 9429

<b>Course Director</b>	Sheena Eagan
<b>Duration</b>	2 Weeks

<b>Course Goals</b>	<p>This M4 elective offers students a two-week face-to-face course on the topic of medical ethics during times of armed conflict, war and genocide. Through the examination of real historical case studies, we will discuss major ethical dilemmas that medical professionals may and do encounter in the extreme context of war. These case studies will be carefully selected to represent recurring themes and to provide the students with an entry point into broader ethical issues in war and armed conflict. Readings will include the works of leading scholars in military medical ethics and the ethics of war. By analyzing these texts and case studies, this seminar will address the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Do medical ethics in times of war/conflict differ from those in times of peace? If so, how and why?</li><li>2. Do professional medical ethics differ from 'normal' ethics?</li><li>3. What common themes can be traced across the history of medical ethics in conflict?</li><li>4. Should medicine and medical professionals be instrumentalized by the military?</li><li>5. What is the problem of dual-loyalty?</li><li>6. How should physicians deal with conflicting moral obligations?</li><li>7. How to address issues arising from this conflict?<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. What is the conventional wisdom and policy of the military institution?</li><li>b. How has medical ethics responded? And, what guidance has been offered?</li></ol></li></ol>
<b>Educational Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To explore and understand the various ethical dilemmas present throughout the history of military medicine.</li><li>2. To identify and understand the roles of doctors within the military and within the history of war.</li><li>3. To understand how medicine has been used in warfare/armed conflict and identify relevant ethical issues.</li><li>4. To reach understanding concerning the professional moral obligations of physicians and the possibility of conflicting obligations within the setting of the military.</li><li>5. To identify common themes across the history of medical ethics in conflict and consider possible solutions.</li></ol>

<b>Course Readings</b>	Readings will be made available on Blackboard
<b>Course Activities/Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures, clinics, conferences to be attended?</li> </ul> <p>This course will be taught online. The online classroom will include recorded lectures, written assignments, and a weekly online discussion forum. This online platform will allow fourth-year students the flexibility that their schedule requires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what location will students be observed on this elective?</li> </ul> <p>Online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will students receive mid-course, formative feedback on their performance?</li> </ul> <p>Feedback will be provided weekly through written assignments and the discussion forum. This weekly feedback will be combined for a midcourse formative evaluation, followed by an assigned project at the end of the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral presentation, written assignments required?</li> </ul> <p>No oral presentation is required, other than class participation in discussion. The course will include a cumulative project, which may involve a presentation, paper, or creative project but is based on student choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research requirement?</li> </ul> <p>Research required (on an approved topic of choice) for the cumulative project.</p>
<b>On Call Requirements</b>	No on-call requirement. Student is present during usual clinical hours (8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday, excluding holidays as determined by the ECU calendar).
<b>Student Performance &amp; Assessment</b>	<p>Student performance will be assessed by observation in the online classroom, as well as by reviewing assigned written materials. The course grade will be determined as follows: Discussion participation (online) grade (30%), weekly writing assignments (40%) and the final project (30%).</p> <p>Graded will be assigned a Pass/Fail grade.</p>
<b>Other Info</b>	