New Course: BIOET 502: Perspectives in Macro-Bioethics (3cr)

Wednesdays -9:05 to 12:05

This course explores systemic and structural issues in bioethics, and the theories and methodologies from the humanities and social sciences that can be used to understand and address such issues. The course complements the traditional discussion of the ethical obligations of individuals considered in isolation (micro-ethics) to explore the ethical obligations of individuals as members of institutions, communities and other collectives, and the collective ethical obligations of these larger entities (macro-ethics).

Topics:

Part I – Bioethics from a Macro-level
- Contextualizing bioethics
- Envisioning a macro-bioethics
- Theory and Method in Macro-bioethics

Part II – Biomedical Research
- Industry funding and systemic ethical issues in biomedical research
- Defense, national security and biomedical research
- Vulnerable populations and biomedical research

Part III – Health Care and Reform
- Access to Health Care and distributive justice (including rural health)
- Politics of Health Care Reform

Part IV – Social Determinants of Health
- The Emerging field of Population Health
- Race, class, gender and health disparities
- Ethics and Environmental Health
- The Food Supply, infrastructure and ethics

Part V – Global Health Perspectives
- Climate Change and Environmental Ethics
- Health and Human Rights in a Global Age

Part VI – Understanding Moral Experience
- Macro-bioethics and Individual Experience