Philosophy of Medicine  
Lower-Level Undergraduate Course  
Sample Syllabus  

Jacob Stegenga  
University of Cambridge  
jms303@cam.ac.uk

This sample syllabus for philosophy of medicine is designed for a lower-level undergraduate course. Please also see my syllabus titled ‘Philosophy of Medicine Upper-Level Seminar’ which is designed for an upper-level undergraduate course or graduate-level seminar. Both syllabi are based around my forthcoming textbook Care and Cure (working title, to be published by Chicago University Press in summer 2018). Both syllabi are designed for a fourteen week semester. Please use and freely modify these syllabi to suit your teaching. Please also feel free to contact me with any comments, questions, or suggestions.

Description

Medicine is among our most important institutions. Though its aim is practical, medicine is shot through with conceptual commitments and theoretical assumptions, its basic tools rely on causal hypotheses supported to varying degrees by inductive inferences, and medical research is developed in a complex political and economic nexus. Thus medicine is a prime subject for philosophical analysis.

Reading

• Required text: Stegenga, Jacob (forthcoming 2018) Care and Cure: An Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine, University of Chicago Press.
• Select articles provided online

Schedule

Week 1: Health  
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 1  
Additional reading:
• Alexandrova, Anna. Forthcoming. "Can the science of well-being be objective?" British Journal for the Philosophy of Science.
• Kingma, Elselijn. 2007. "What is it to be healthy?" Analysis 67 (294):128-133.
Week 2: Disease
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 2
Additional reading:

Week 3: Death
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 3
Additional reading:

Week 4: Causation and Kinds
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 4
Additional reading:

Week 5: Holism and Reductionism
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 5
Additional reading:

Week 6: Controversial Diseases
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 6
Additional reading:

Week 7: Evidence in Medicine
Required reading: Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 7
Additional reading:

Week 8: Objectivity and the Social Structure of Science
Required reading: Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 8
Additional reading:

Week 9: Inference
Required reading: Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 9
Additional reading:
Week 10: Effectiveness, Skepticism, and Alternatives
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 10
Additional reading:

Week 11: Diagnosis and Screening
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 11
Additional reading:

Week 12: Psychiatry: Care or Control?
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 12
Additional reading:

Week 13: Policy
Required reading: Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 13
Additional reading:

Week 14: Public Health
Required reading: Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 14

Additional reading: