Philosophy of Medicine
Upper-Level Graduate or Senior Seminar
Sample Syllabus

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

This sample syllabus for philosophy of medicine is for an upper-level undergraduate course or graduate-level seminar. Please also see my syllabus titled ‘Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine’ which is designed for a lower-level undergraduate course. 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 study.

Reading

- Required text: Stegenga, Jacob (forthcoming 2018) Care and Cure: An Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine, University of Chicago Press.
- Select articles provided online
- Optional books are noted for further study

Schedule

Week 1: Health
- Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 1
- Alexandrova, Anna. Forthcoming. "Can the science of well-being be objective?" British Journal for the Philosophy of Science.
Week 2: Disease

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 2

Week 3: Death

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 3

Week 4: Causation and Kinds

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 4

Week 5: Holism and Reductionism

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 5

Week 6: Controversial Diseases

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 6

Week 7: Evidence in Medicine
• Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 7
• Steel, Daniel. 2007. Across the Boundaries. Oxford University Press.

Week 8: Objectivity and the Social Structure of Science
• Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 8
• Solomon, Miriam. 2015. Making Medical Knowledge: Oxford University Press.

Week 9: Inference
• Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 9

Week 10: Effectiveness, Skepticism, and Alternatives
• Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 10

Week 11: Diagnosis and Screening
• Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 11

Week 12: Psychiatry: Care or Control?
• Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 12

Week 13: Policy
• Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 13
• Biddle, Justin. 2014. "Can patents prohibit research?" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 45:14-23.

Week 14: Public Health
• Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 14