

Public Health Ethics (Elective)

Credit Value: 10

Course Organiser: Professor Kenneth Boyd

Course Instructor(s): Professor Kenneth Boyd / Dr Martyn Pickersgill

Time: Semester 1 Weeks 6-11
Wednesday 14:00-15:50

Short course description: The course will examine some of the key ethical issues in public health, attending particularly to the links between local and global perspectives and concerns. It will consider how approaches from and debates within philosophy, law and the social sciences (for instance, about personhood, dignity, rights and justice) can contribute to our understanding of the historical and contemporary shaping of current ethical issues, the nature of their impact in relation to public health, and how they might be tackled. Topics to be covered include health promotion, infectious diseases, and screening.

Course prerequisites: Introduction to Research Ethics

Learning objectives: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Explain the significance of some of the key ethical concerns in public health today.
- Describe the links between individual and societal rights, and local and global concerns.
- Analyse current and emerging concerns in public health by drawing on concepts and debates from philosophy and the social sciences.
- Evaluate ethical arguments in terms of how debates emerge and how agendas are set.
- Recommend solutions for ethical concerns.

Teaching methods: Lectures

Assessment: Group presentation and essay