Most of us are consumers of health care, and some of us will also be providers. The practice of medicine is directed at prolonging life and improving health, but people have become increasingly aware that promoting these values can conflict with other values that are profoundly important to people. One important example of such conflict concerns autonomy (from the Greek autonemos, or self rule), the capacity of persons to determine the course of their own lives. Promoting physical health, at both the individual and societal level, may impede individual self-determination. If doctors and patients disagree about a course of treatment, who should have the final say? Is it permissible to withhold information from patients in the interests of treatment or research? In thinking about these issues, we will attend to issues in philosophical theory, but we will be most concerned to focus our discussion "at the bedside," and carefully consider concrete cases in health care. Hopefully, we will learn something about what is required for a humane practice of medicine, and also something about what it means to live a decent human life.

**SCHEDULE:**

I. Introduction

II. Lying and Paternalism
Munson, 38-53

Although we will often spend more class time on the anthologized articles than on Munson's introductory material, the introductions provide very helpful background, and are required.

Articles by O'Neil, Dworkin, Lipkin, Sirotin & Lo

III. Informed Consent (Human and Otherwise)
Munson, 110-63
Articles by Goldby et al., Jonas, Singer, Cohen

IV. Impaired Infants
Munson 505-24
Articles by Robertson, Englehardt

V. Euthanasia
Munson 555-85
Articles by Rachels, Gay-Williams, Callahan, Singer, Supreme Court of New Jersey

VI. Abortion
Munson 432-61
Articles by Marquis, Noonan, Thomson, Warre

VII. Race & Gender
TBA

VIII. Enhancement
TBA

**REQUIREMENTS:**
2 in class essay exams  30% ea.
1 paper, approx. 8 pp.  30%
Participation, etc.  10%

**TEXT:**
Munson, *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, at bookstore

**ETC.:**

It is *essential* that you carefully complete the reading *before* the class for which it is assigned.

Late papers may be penalized in evaluation.

Always credit the source for any idea you use in a paper that is not originally your own. The university regards *plagiarism* as a serious offense, and penalties are accordingly harsh.

For your own protection, be sure to retain a hard copy of any paper you hand in.

Participation. Much philosophical work takes to form of discussion, and class discussion will be a major part of our work. Accordingly, your participation and attendance may have some impact on your grade.

Philosophy is best done in the spirit of cooperation. *Behavior disrespectful of other participants -- including and especially talking while others have the floor -- will not be tolerated.* To receive a passing mark, all coursework must be completed during the term.

**Be on time to class.** Late arrivals disrupt discussion, and waste our time.

If you have any questions on these policies, please contact an instructor as soon as possible.