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 textbook Care and Cure: An Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine, published by the University of Chicago Press. 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, 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

Week 8: Objectivity and the Social Structure of Science
- Stegenga, Care and Cure, Chapter 8

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

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