

## **MHB 728: Biomedical Ethics and Society**

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### Course Description

The aims of this course are to provide understandings of the broader social, cultural and political contexts in which bioethical debates and medical practice occur, to explore social science perspectives on ethical issues in medicine and bioethics, and to examine the use of qualitative and interdisciplinary methods to conduct research in these areas. Readings and discussion will draw upon research using ethnography and historical analysis, as well as commentary from experts in bioethics and public health. The course will cover issues in both clinical and public health settings, and may emphasize one or the other depending on the interests of enrolled students. It is designed for the needs of graduate students in the social sciences and humanities, population health sciences, health policy, law, medicine, and health professions.

Topics include the ethics of clinical trials (domestic and international), biosecurity (pandemics, vaccines, disasters), death and disorders of consciousness, dilemmas posed by technology (incidental findings from diagnostic screens, ethics of first-in-human research, new subjectivities in interaction with devices, enhancement) among others.