Sample Syllabus

**Mind and Medicine**
This course is an introduction to the philosophical issues at the intersection of psychology and medicine. Among others, we will examine the following questions: What does it mean to be healthy? Can one define health and sickness purely objectively, or is there a social element? Should medical judgments be made based on the intuitions of trained clinicians, or using automatic procedures? What is the nature of medical expertise? Are medical judgments influenced by various biases (e.g., from the pharmaceutical industry) and can these biases be overcome? Are psychiatric disorders real? How should scientists explain and classify psychiatric disorders? How much do we learn about them by studying animals (e.g., rats)? Can evolutionary biology be useful to psychiatry? The goal of this class is to provide students with a critical understanding of these philosophical issues.

**Texts**
Other readings will be made available on the course website.

**Assessment**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay outline/draft</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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No late assignments will be accepted.

**Participation**
Everyone is expected to take part in class discussion. You should have read the assigned readings carefully. You are advised to take notes, singling out the main points as well as the arguments for these points. You should also write down any questions you have. Because online communication forms an increasingly important part of philosophical discussion, you will also be expected to contribute regularly to the course message board. Participating in these discussions gives you a better appreciation of the material, a better understanding of the problems and solutions, and more confidence in your abilities as a scholar and communicator. Your TA will provide details about participation grades.

**Essay**
You are required to write a short (max. 1500 words) paper. Suggested topics for your paper will be distributed two weeks before the paper is due. An outline or draft of our essay will be due one week before the essay is due, and is worth 5% of your grade.

**Midterm Exam**
This exam will consist of a small number of questions based on the lectures and the readings. No notes or texts will be permitted, but I will provide you with a list of possible questions about two weeks before the exam.
Final Exam
The final exam will consist of a small number of questions based on the lectures and the readings, covering the entire course, but weighted towards the second half. As with the midterm, no notes or texts will be permitted, but I will provide you with a list of possible questions.

SCHEDULE

Introduction

PART I: HEALTH AND DISEASE

Health and disease: facts and values
Foreward in Caplan et al. xi- xiv
Boorse in Caplan et al. 77-89
Caplan in Caplan et al. 117-126.
Szaz in Caplan et al. 43-50.
Arnowitz in Caplan et al. 65- 72.

The role of evolution in naturalizing normality

Normativivism
Cartwright in Caplan et al. 28-39.
Conrad in Caplan et al. 153-162.

Hybrid theories

Genetic diseases
Juengst in Caplan et al. 243-262.

PART II: PSYCHOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Reasoning biases influencing medical judgment and decision making.
Social biases influencing medical judgment and decision making
Potter in Radden, 237-243.

Actuarial methods vs. clinical judgments

Heuristics in medical decision making in medicine

Medical expertise

Empathy and medical training

Medical knowledge among ordinary people and informed consent
Culver and Gert in Radden, 258-270.

PART III: PSYCHIATRY

Reductionist approaches in psychiatry

Evolution and psychiatry
Murphy in Radden, 329-337.