

Philosophy of Medicine
Zaporizhzhia State Medical and Pharmaceutical University
Jacob Stegenga

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 analysis.

This course will be a series of five sessions, delivered online. Our sessions are on Mondays, 12:00 (Ukraine time). The sessions will be in English, and I am grateful to the students and colleagues for permitting me to lecture in English.

During each session I will begin with a lecture, approximately 60-90 minutes, giving an overview of the topic for that week. These lectures will follow the content in our primary book, *Care and Cure*. The remainder of each session will be based on a group discussion of the lecture material and the additional readings for each week. I strongly encourage students to participate in discussion, and ask questions about the lecture material each session.

Contact

Students and colleagues are welcome to email me with questions about the course: jacob.stegenga@ntu.edu.sg

Reading

- Primary text: Stegenga, Jacob. 2018. *Care are Cure: An Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine*. University of Chicago Press. We can provide free electronic copies of this book if you give me your email address, which I will forward to the publisher so they can send you an access code.
- Select articles. I will provide a dropbox link for these articles.

Schedule Overview

Week 1. Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine, & Health and Disease

Week 2. Evidence and Inference

Week 3. Objectivity and the Social Structure of Science

Week 4. Psychiatry: Care or Control?

Week 5. Policy and Public Health

Detailed Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 1

Health and Disease

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 2 & 6
- Boorse, C. 1977. "Health as a Theoretical Concept." *Philosophy of Science* 44 (4):542-573.
- Cooper, Rachel. 2002. "Disease." *Stud Hist Philos Biol Biomed Sci* 33:263-282.
- Holton, Richard and Berridge, Kent. 2013. "Addiction Between Compulsion and Choice" in *Addiction and Self-Control*, Oxford University Press
- Horwitz, Allan, and Jerome Wakefield. 2007. *Loss of Sadness*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 2: Evidence and Inference

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 7 & 9
- Worrall, John. 2002. "What Evidence in Evidence-Based Medicine?" *Philosophy of Science* 69:S316-S330.
- Clarke, B., Gillies, D., Illari, P., Russo, F., and Williamson, J. 2014. "Mechanisms and the Evidence Hierarchy." *Topoi* 33(2): 339-360.
- Larroulet Philippi, Cristian. 2022. "There is Cause to Randomize." *Philosophy of Science* 89 (1):152 - 170.
- Tabatabaei Ghomi, Hamed, and Jacob Stegenga. 2025. "Causal Inference from Clinical Experience." *Philosophical Studies* 182: 445–465.

Week 3: Objectivity and the Social Structure of Science

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 8
- Douglas, Heather. 2000. "Inductive Risk and Values in Science." *Philosophy of Science* 67 (4):559-579.
- Biddle, Justin. 2007. "Lessons from the Vioxx debacle: What the Privatization of Science Can Teach Us About Social Epistemology." *Social Epistemology* 21 (1):21-39.
- Longino 1990 Chapter 4

Week 4: Psychiatry: Care or Control?

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 12
- Fagerberg, Harriet. 2022. "Why Mental Disorders are not Like Software Bugs." *Philosophy of Science* 89(4):661-682.
- Tsou, Jonathan. 2021. *Philosophy of Psychiatry*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bueter Anke. 2019. "Epistemic Injustice and Psychiatric Classification." *Philosophy of Science*. 86(5):1064-1074.
- Bortolotti, Lisa. 2009. *Delusions and Other Irrational Beliefs*. Oxford University Press.

Week 5: Policy and Public Health

- Stegenga, *Care and Cure*, Chapter 13 & 14
- Brown, James. 2008. "Politics, Method, and Medical Research." *Philosophy of Science* 75 (5):756-766.
- Reiss, Julian & Kitcher, Philip. 2010. "Biomedical Research, Neglected Diseases, and Well-Ordered Science." *Theoria* 24 (3):263-282.
- Biddle, Justin. 2014. "Can Patents Prohibit Research?" *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 45:14-23.