Philosophy of Medicine 326

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An exploration of a variety of issues that have arisen in medical practice and biological research and development, focusing particularly on the physician/patient relationship through a focus on a series of clinical cases. A central question involves the nature and objectives of medicine, and how the physician engages with that nature and pursues those objectives.

Course Objective: To develop insight into, and a philosophical understanding of, the conceptually and technologically complex environment in which contemporary medicine is practiced. A wide variety of readings will be considered, as well as relevant concrete cases that illustrate the dilemmas that are encountered and the views to which various thinkers subscribe.