

Course Title/Code:	Public Health Law and Ethics (MMPH6180)
Department:	School of Public Health
Objectives:	<p>This course will lead students to understand and discuss the potential tension between respect for individual rights and morals, and the pursuit to protect the health of the public, or the so-called “private interest versus public good” debate.</p> <p>The course first introduces the conceptual foundations of health law, ethics and human rights, and issues relating to these fields. Students will then explore how government may, on behalf of the public’s health, conflict with the rights of individuals and businesses. These conflicts will be examined through critical current controversies in public health law and practices, e.g. surveillance vs. privacy rights, health promotion vs. freedom of expression and regulation of business. The course concludes by inviting students to critically review the roles of the government, communities, and individuals in some emerging issues in public health, e.g. infectious diseases, bioterrorism, and public health genetics.</p>
Content:	<p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Principles and Practice in a mixed Western/Confucian Society • Introduction to Health Law and Ethics • Conflicts of Interest in Health Care Settings: Challenges of Ethical Management • Autonomy vs. Paternalism: Tobacco Control and Disease Prevention • Public Health Genetics: The Ethical Challenges raised by the Advancement of Medical Science • Distributive Justice and Resource Allocation in Health Care Policy Development and Health Care Management • Consent, Confidentiality and the Patient’s Right to Know • Private Interest vs. Public Good in Public Health • Ethics at the Beginning of Life • Ethics at the End of Life • Ethics Debate
Learning Outcomes:	<p>On completion of the module, the students are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the structure and functions of the public health system; • Define the theory and practice of public health in a legal context; • Identify the legal and ethical conflicts between governmental and community interests in public health, and individual interests in liberty or other protected rights in different contexts; • Critically evaluate the roles of the government, communities, and individuals in assuring the conditions for people to be healthy.

Prerequisite:	None
Duration:	2 hours/week; 24 contact hours
Coursework assessment/ Examination ratio:	100% in course work 4 Discussion Papers: 20% Essay: 40% Ethics Debate: 20% Participation: 20%