

Course Title:	The Beginning and End of Life (MMPH6215)
Department offering the course:	Department of Law/School of Public Health
Objective:	<p>This course aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine in depth some of the most compelling ethical, legal and social issues brought about by the advent of modern technology which has blurred the certainty traditionally taken for granted as regards the constructs of the beginning of life and of its end.
Content:	<p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foetus and the Beginning of Life; • Impact of assisted reproductive technologies; • Decisions at the End of Life.
Learning Outcomes:	<p>On completion of the module, the students are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognize the common ethical themes and problems with procedures at the beginning of life and critically evaluate arguments for and against certain procedures; • develop understanding of cultural and familial context of beginning and end of life cases, including issues related to disability, power and inequality in the context of medico-legal decision-making; • evaluate complex issues repeatedly arising in medical and legal debates at the end of life, including concepts of brain death, medical futility, advance care planning, assisted dying and capacity; • familiarize themselves with analytical tools used to aid clinicians in approaching controversial ethical dilemmas and compare and contrast with processes used in judicial decisions and statutory guidance used in different jurisdictions to assist in decision-making at the beginning and end of life; • examine the concept of what makes a life valuable to both an individual and to society (in particular concepts of personhood and autonomy) and apply these theoretical considerations to medical and legal decision making in case studies and policy setting.
Prerequisite:	None
Duration:	1 semester; 30-36 class hours
Continuous Assessment:	Class participation (30%)
Examination method/ duration:	Take-home final examination (70%)

