This course aims to look at contemporary Medical Issues and how they relate to Medical Ethics and Jewish texts. The aim is not to give any practical ‘rulings’ on these matters, but rather to stimulate and encourage philosophical thought about these issues through the eyes of traditional Jewish sources and contemporary texts. We will look at issues such as reproductive technologies, abortion, organ donation and receipt, genetic screening, euthanasia and other issues.

This course will survey relevant cases, laws, and doctrines as they apply to the cutting edge of medical technology and everyday life. This course will compare the various rulings, statutes, and bioethical concerns to Talmudic civil law, the same law that governed the autonomous Jewish communities of ancient Babylonia and Palestine and informs modern Israeli law and Jewish custom worldwide today.

**Class 1**  
**Brain Death** Case study and a look at medical and Talmudic sources

**Class 2**  
**What is Medical Ethics and how does it apply in ultra orthodox neighborhoods?** (Guest speaker Dr. Mark Flyer, Vice Chair of Radiology and the Chief of the Division of Body Imaging at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY)

**Class 3**  
**What are the basic values of Medicine and Judaism as they relate to and inform medical ethics?** Pikuach nefesh and the Hippocratic Oath

**Class 4**  
**Is Healthcare a Right or a Privilege?** “Obamacare”, The Right to Medical Care, The Cost of Medical Care and how does this relate to medical and Jewish ethics

**Class 5**  
**When Does Life Begin and Abortion, Procreation and Contraception**

**Class 6**  
**Fertility Treatment, New Ethical Issues in Infertility Therapy**

**Class 7**  
**Genetic Testing, The “right” to know and what to do with that information, “Designer Babies”**

**Class 8**  
**AIDS, homosexuality and transgender**

**Class 9**
Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

Class 10
Autopsy, Organ Donation, Compensation for Organ Donation, and Transplantation

Class 11
Stem Cell Transplant

Class 12
Medical Data From Nazi Experiments