This course is an examination of the ethical problem of allocating scarce medical resources. We will emphasize the fundamental principles of justice that support alternative health policies.

Nancy Jecker, PhD  |  T Th 2:30-4:20 pm  |  Winter 2020

• The first part of the course introduces theories of justice, and considers the support these theories lend to the idea of a right to health care.

• The second section turns to consider alternative approaches to rationing health care, including arguments for and against rationing based on a patient’s ability to pay; likelihood, length, or quality of medical benefit; social value; and age. We also consider the criteria of random selection; first come, first served; and favored group status.

• The final part of the course explores future challenges facing the U.S. health care system, including ensuring quality, containing costs, improving access, and meeting the needs of a rapidly aging society.