

## OLLI at DU On Campus Syllabus – Fall 2024

### Decisions of Fate: Your Jewish Compass for Navigating Questions of Medical Ethics –

Subject Philosophy, Religion, Psychology & Culture

Tuesday Afternoons Online; Four weeks

Instructor: Yossi Serebryanski

#### 1. **SUMMARIZE YOUR COURSE**

Explore the guiding Jewish values that help inform choices on common medical questions. This course will equip students with the tools to chart a path through four areas of medical ethics: experimental treatments, extending life, pregnancy questions, and caring for a body. Gain an enriching perspective on how the Jewish ethical tradition helps us confidently navigate fateful decisions.

#### 2. **BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE ORGANIZED BY CLASS SESSION:**

##### Week 1 Experimental Treatments

When emerging treatments offer hope of recovery, when is the risk justified? Discover the Jewish ethics of risking your life in the hope of extending your long-term prospects.

##### Week 2 Extending Life

How does Judaism balance the desire to preserve life with concerns of reducing suffering? See how Jewish values inform a dignified approach to end-of-life care and advance medical directives.

##### Week 3 Pregnancy Questions

Explore questions of pregnancy through the lens of Jewish texts. Is a fetus a human life or a part of the mother's body? When pregnancy endangers a woman's life, may she, in good conscience, carry the pregnancy to term?

##### Week 4 A Body's Dignity

Might autopsy violate the dignity of the human body? Learn the Jewish view on the respect to which the deceased is entitled and how the sanctity of human life continues after death.