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Philosophy, Politics and Economics of Health

Master in Philosophy of Science

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Week 5 – Paternalism, the Common Good, and the Right to Public Health

1. **Paternalism**

*When is a policy paternalistic?*

*Why is paternalism regarded by many as morally problematic?*

*What are some practical problems with paternalistic policies such as seatbelt mandates?*

1. **Seatbelts, smoking, and vaccines**

*Are the following policies paternalistic, and what should follow from this?*

* *Smoking bans in restaurants*
* *Mandating seatbelts*
* *Compulsory vaccination against COVID-19*

*Do seatbelt mandates discriminate against marginalized groups?*

1. **Nudge**

*One of Flanigan’s proposed solutions is to “nudge people toward voluntary seat belt mandates”. Would nudging solve the moral and practical problems that paternalism faces?*

1. **Next Week: Responsibility and Health**

*Readings:*

Rebecca C.H. Brown, Julian Savulescu, “Responsibility in healthcare across time and agents”