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Course 1
Ethical issues in healthcare

In their daily work, both healthcare workers, as well as scientists, use certain generalizations, such as race, population, sex etc. These generalizations create reference classes that allow them to efficiently and quickly conduct and design research, use statistical data to diagnose a patient or determine her treatment. However, a precise definition of categories such as sex or race is a big problem discussed by scientists, politicians, social activists etc. We will consider how these categories are constructed and used in the fields of healthcare and biomedical research as well as what problems they cause from the perspective of bioethics, social philosophy, the philosophy of medicine, philosophy of science and methodology. During the course, we will pay special attention to the category of race. This is because although many researchers point out that human races do not exist, this category is still commonly used not only in scientific research but also in medical practice which causes a lot of controversies. To better understand the above situation, we will analyse source text as well as examples of social discussions on this topic.