

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

**TITLE:** Bioethics

**TERM:**  F  **YEAR:**  2009 -2010

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Patricia Murphy

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO \_\_\_\_\_

UNLIMITED \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the morality of human conduct with regard to life issues: new reproductive technologies, abortion, healthcare problems, euthanasia and concepts of the person, etc. Lectures, readings, discussions, paper and final exam and limited online component,using Blackboard (details of online component) to be discussed during first class.

(pre-requisite: Fundamental Christian Ethics)

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

To deepen understanding of the foundations of a Catholic approach to bioethics (the meaning of personhood, the mystery of suffering, principles of Catholic moral reasoning, etc.)

To bring fundamental principles in Catholic moral teaching to bear on questions such as those posed by new reproductive technologies, the new genetics, stem cell research, abortion, euthanasia, the reality of scarce medical resources, the dynamics of our complex secular society, etc.

To introduce students to a variety of useful resources in the area of contemporary bioethics

Classes will combine lecture with case-based discussions of the concrete/pastoral implications of topics.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Fundamental Christian Ethics

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Ashley, Benedict M. and Jean Deblois and Kevin D. O'Rourke. *Health Care Ethics: A Catholic Theological Analysis*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2006.

Also:

*Declaration on Euthanasia*

*Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae or "EV")*

*Instruction on Respect for Human Life in its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation (Donum Vitae or "DV")*

*On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering (Salvifici Dolores)*

Weekly “**reading packets**” (popular articles, opposing viewpoints, clinical aspects, etc.) will be provided by the instructor (at cost).

Course texts available at **Crux Books**, 5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto (416-599-2749)

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

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| 1) Response Paper (based on case study of choice; 10-12 pages, double-spaced)  | 40% |
| 2) Participation in class discussions (including 2 weeks of online discussion) | 15% |
| 3) Final written exam  | 45% |

(all grading will be according to TST guidelines: please see TST Basic Degree Handbook; syllabus subject to slight modification, according to professor’s discretion)

**ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Beauchamp, Tom L. and James F. Childress. *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*. Fourth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Haering, Bernard. *Medical Ethics*. Edited by Gabrielle L. Jean. Notre Dame, Indiana: Fides Publishers, Inc., 1973.

Lammers, Stephen E. and Allen Verhey, ed. *On Moral Medicine: Theological Perspectives in Medical Ethics*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987.

Mappes, Thomas A. and David DeGrazia, ed. *Biomedical Ethics*. Fifth Edition. Toronto: McGraw-Hill, 2001.

O’Rourke, Kevin D. *A Primer for Health Care Ethics*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2000.

O’Rourke, Kevin D. and Philip Boyle. *Medical Ethics: Sources of Catholic Teachings*. Third Edition. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1999.

Pellegrino, Edmund D. and David C. Thomasma. *The Christian Virtues in Medical Practice*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Helping and Healing: Religious Commitment in Health Care*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1997.

Ramsey, Paul. *The Patient as Person: Explorations in Medical Ethics*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1970.

Roy, David J., John R. Williams and Bernard M. Dickens. *Bioethics in Canada*. Scarborough: Prentice Hall Canada Inc., 1994.

Shannon, Thomas A. *Bioethics: Basic Writings on the Key Ethical Questions that Surround the Major Modern Biological Possibilities and Problems*. Fourth Edition. Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1993.

\_\_\_\_\_. *An Introduction to Bioethics*. Second edition. New York: Paulist Press, 1987.

Somerville, Margaret. *The Ethical Canary: Science, Society and the Human Spirit*. Toronto: Penguin Books, 2000.