

MEDICAL ETHICS

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of decision-making and principles in the field of biomedical ethics. Students will compare the merits of both a secular approach and a Christian approach to biomedical ethics and health care. Using case studies to unpack the complex issues involved in medical treatment and research, students will discuss the obligations of professional conduct and defend their recommendations for due care. Public policy concerns will also occupy our attention.

Requirements

1. Class participation (15%)
2. Essay: Students will write a 10-15 page research essay on one of the issues in biomedical ethics that is discussed in class. Essays will be due on **May 13**, the last day of class (40%)
3. Take-Home Midterm distributed on March 18 and due on **March 30** (30%)
4. 10-15 minute Oral Report on the issue that you have selected to research for your paper. (15%)

Texts

- Case Studies in Biomedical Ethics(CBE), Veatch, Haddad and English
- Health Care and Christian Ethics(HCCE), Gill

Calendar of Topics

February 11	Introduction to the course
February 16	Four questions of ethics CBE, Introduction
February 18	A model for ethical problem solving CBE, chapter 1
February 23	Values in health and illness CBE, chapter 2

February 25	Source of moral judgments	
	CBE, chapter 3	
March 2	The duty to do good and avoid harm	
	CBE, chapter 4	
March 4	The allocation of health resources	
	CBE, chapter 5	
March 9	Autonomy	
	CBE, chapter 6	
March 11	Veracity	
	CBE, chapter 7	
March 16	Fidelity	
	CBE, chapter 8	
March 18	Avoidance of killing	
	CBE, chapter 9	
MARCH 22-26:	RESEARCH AND STUDY WEEK	
March 30	Abortion, sterilization, and contraception	
	CBE, chapter 10	
April 1:	EASTER RECESS	
April 6	Genetics	Health Care and Christian Ethics
	CBE, chapter 11	HCCE, Introduction
April 8	Mental health	Moral gaps in secular health care
	CBE, chapter 12	HCCE, chapter 1
April 13	Confidentiality	Tensions in public theology
	CBE, chapter 13	HCCE, chapter 2
April 15	Organ transplants	Healing in the Synoptic Gospels

	CBE, chapter 14	HCCE, chapter 3
April 20	Health insurance	Compassion in health care ethics
	CBE, chapter 15	HCCE, chapter 4
April 22	Experimentation	Care in health care ethics
	CBE, chapter 16	HCCE, chapter 5
April 27	Consent	Faith in health care ethics
	CBE, chapter 17	HCCE, chapter 6
April 29	Death and dying	Humility in health care ethics
	CBE, chapter 18	HCCE, chapter 7 and conclusion
May 4	Student reports	
May 6	Student reports	
May 11	Student reports	
May 13	concluding comments	