STP 576/MPS 225 Bioethics: Moral Issues from the Life Sciences

Fall 2019-2020

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date:
Thursday Sept. 5th to Thursday December 5th, 2019

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room
Thursday: 1:15-4:05 p.m.
St. Eugene de Mazenod Room

Instructor: Sr. Zoe Bernatsky SSMI
Office: Newman College 2-07
Office Hours: Wednesday afternoons or by appointment
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Course Description:
Basic human and Christian values at stake. The rapid development of medical technologies and the growing complexity of the moral issues involved. From extensive case studies, an attempt to develop adequate models for moral evaluation and pastoral counseling.

Course Objectives:
BTh Program Goals: The BTh is an undergraduate degree intended to give student a basic understanding of theology and religious sciences and provide a foundation for ministry.

M.DIV. Program Goals
a) Intellectual Formation - The program shall foster sound knowledge of the revelation of God in creation, in Israel, and in the person of Jesus Christ as witnessed to by Scripture and the Church’s Tradition.
b) Cultural Context - The program shall foster an evangelical discernment of the ‘signs of the times’ to engage with the reality of cultural diversity in the Church and world.
c) Personal and Spiritual Formation - The program shall foster growth in terms of human and Christian maturity, as a personal response to being a disciple of Jesus Christ and as a dimension of public witness.
d) Capacity for Ministerial Leadership - The program shall foster theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministerial leadership in the Church and world.
MTS Program Students

a) **Intellectual Formation** - The program shall foster a survey knowledge of theology in the following four areas; Foundational Theology, Sacred Scripture, Systematic Theology, and Moral/Spiritual Theology

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

1. Articulate various approaches to Moral Theology and bioethical theory. (Intellectual Formation)

2. Understand the teaching of the Catholic Church on various bioethical issues. (Intellectual Formation and Ministerial Leadership)

3. Become aware of personal assumptions and biases operative in their application of Moral Theology and Magisterial teaching, to issues in Bioethics. (Personal and Spiritual Formation and Ministerial Leadership)

4. Demonstration of the ability to integrate factual information required for bioethical analysis with pastoral sensitivity. (All Program Goals)

5. Demonstrate effective communication skills in presenting information about bioethics, including respect of others with diverse points of view. (Personal Formation and Ministerial Leadership)

6. Demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively with others and to share moral and personal insight through class discussions. (Personal/Spiritual Formation and Ministerial Leadership)

7. Identify some of the resources available to provide guidance for the resolution of bioethical issues. (Intellectual Formation and Ministerial Leadership)

**Course Assignments and Evaluation:**

This elective course will prepare learners to respond to moral issues in the contemporary context. The goals include intellectual formation related to theological concepts and ethical frameworks and pastoral implications which include understanding cultural context, identification of biases and limitations and exploration of questions related to life and death. Evaluation through both written work and the ability to communicate and to stimulate and contribute to conversation around these important issues.
1. Short essay due Sept. 16th at 4:00 p.m.
   Topic 1. Review the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights and the Health Ethics Guide published by the Catholic Health Alliance of Canada and Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. [https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000146180](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000146180)
   **Undergraduate students:** Write a 2-3 page double-spaced paper on the areas of confluence and divergence with Catholic Bioethics.
   **Graduate Students:** Write a 3-5 page double-spaced paper on the areas of confluence and divergence with Catholic Bioethics.
   Please use the guidelines for writing academic reviews found in


   References should be documented appropriately (20% of grade).

2. Seminar Leadership (30% of total mark). Each student will lead a weekly seminar based on the Catholic Bioethics text and develop 2 questions for discussion. A 3-5 page double-spaced summary of the presentation or a copy of a PowerPoint presentation will also be submitted on the day of the presentation).

3. No class Nov. 21

   **November 20:** Colloquium on Conscience (please attend and write a two page single space summary of a presentation worth 10% of grade due Nov. 28). Please notify professor if unable to attend the Colloquium.

3. Take Home Exam (40% of total mark).
   Take Home Exam to be provided by the professor. With permission it may consist of a Research Paper or Project of the paper is 7-8 pages for Undergraduate students and 10-12 pages for Graduate Students.

   **Paper on topic approved by your professor.** Choose a topic in consultation with your professor. Paper topics selected in the past have included discussions of specific cases, considerations of the ethical use of new technologies and responses to such things as legal euthanasia, abortion, vaccine refusal, involuntary commitment, and patient perceptions of physician care. Reading for the papers will be drawn from the reading for the course as well as additional research.
Or: Project on a topic approved by your professor: Students will develop a response to a particular bioethical issue in the form of a resource for use in the community or health professional setting. For instance, the topic of infertility may be chosen, and the setting may be the community. The student might design a teaching series on this topic for faith leaders, support groups, or college students. Another example may be palliative care and physician-assisted suicide, with the setting of the health professional. In this case, one might provide research information on the various options for palliative care and the concerns related to assisted suicide where that is permissible. The project could then address the bioethical concerns that should be recognized by, and the particular cultural, philosophical, and theological concerns raised by different groups. Past students have developed a bioethics blog and website, a school curriculum, and a guide to using medical resources wisely as a social health concern or a guide to conscientious objection in health care. Other questions may include: At what point do physicians choose civil disobedience? How do physicians respond to other community health workers such as acupuncturists, healing touch therapists, and chiropractors when their patients access them for care? Should more be done to integrate physician practices with alternative practices such as naturopathy, or should physicians oppose such work? The project is not a paper, but a product to be used as a resource to facilitate bioethical deliberation for the community, schools, and health professionals.

Late submission policy: In case of personal or family emergency, please contact the professor as soon as possible to obtain permission for an extension. Without permission, late submissions will be penalized by 5% per day after the due date.

Textbooks


Additional Resources


2. Loyola University Chicago Neiswanger Institute https://hsd.luc.edu/bioethics/content/loyolabioethicslive/

Course Requirements:

All students are required to attend all classes, complete the mandated reading and assignments, and participate in class discussions. Habitual lateness will be regarded as absence. Thoughtful class participation includes the ability to listen to others. Because of the nature of the discussion, it is important not to share the content conversations beyond the classroom. Much of the learning that goes on in a classroom is founded upon mutual discourse between the instructor and students. Cell phones must be silenced and use of laptops and other devices may be used in the classroom for note taking purposes only. Use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to send a text message or search for information will do so during the break only. If a student is unable to attend a class, the instructor is to be informed by email. Consistent with the policy of Newman College, students taking the class for credit are allowed no more than two absences.

Course Schedule

Sept. 5: Review of Syllabus. 
Theology of Pope Francis: [https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2013/09/30/big-heart-open-god-interview-pope-francis](https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2013/09/30/big-heart-open-god-interview-pope-francis)
Context: Challenges and Resources for a New Millennium. Read: Catholic Bioethics Introduction and Chapter One.
Health Ethics Guide (Catholic Health Alliance of Canada): Introduction and Chapter One and Appendix 1.
Consent and capacity; practice of informed consent, substitute decision-making.
Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, Principles of Biomedical Ethics sixth edition, pp. 117-129; 132-140. (Handout)

Henrietta Lacks and Cell Research

Sept. 12: Theories and Approaches to Bioethics
Health Care Ethics: Chapter 1 and 2.
Conscience: Read: Catholic Bioethics Chapter Two
Dignity of the Human Person
Health Ethics Guide (Catholic Health Alliance of Canada) Chapter 2
Eastern Christian Reading
Sept. 19: ______________________ (Catholic Bioethics Chapter 3)

Cooperation: Should we ever collaborate with wrongdoing?
Catholic Bioethics Chapter 3. Health Ethics Guide pp. 117-119
Review: DNA, Meiosis and Mitosis: for next week

Sept. 26: ______________________ (Catholic Bioethics Chapter 4)
Health Ethics Guide (Catholic Health Alliance of Canada): Chapter Three

Oct. 3: ________________________ (Catholic Bioethics Chapter 6)

Abortion: The new eugenics? Read: Catholic Bioethics Chapter 6, Health Care Ethics Chapter 4

Oct. 10
Read Nualla Kenny, The Art of Dying: How Jesus’ Experiences and Our Stories Reveal a New Vision of Compassionate Care (Ottawa: Novalis, 2018). (Discussion of cases)

Webinar: Dr. Chris DeBono

Oct. 17: ________________ Endings: Suicide and Euthanasia in the Bible. Read: Catholic Bioethics Chapter 9 and Health Care Ethics Chapter 11


Ars Moriendi: Children’s Mercy Kansas City Bioethics Program Lydia Dugdale, MD: Ars Moriendi: Reclaiming an Art of Dying for Children
http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1700697644001?bcyev=AQ--.AAAAEH3J5KE~.qz5kW1OHgCGNdyh7rZpd1UXEAt-MMbGO&bctid=4800298879001

Hanna Klop et al, Palliative Care for Homeless People: A Systematic Review of the Concerns, Care Needs and Preferences, and the Barriers and Facilitators for Providing Palliative Care BMC Palliative Care 17 (67) 1-16, 2018 (Open Access)
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5914070/pdf/12904_2018_Article_320.pdf

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, “Declaration on Euthanasia”
Oct. 24: ____________________________ (Catholic Bioethics Chapter 8)

Advanced Directives In Alberta

Oct. 31: ____________________________ (Catholic Bioethics Chapter 7)

Transplants: Bodies, Relationships, and Ethics. Read: Catholic Bioethics Chapter 7, Health Care Ethics, Chapter 8.

Burdens and Benefits: Refusing Treatment

John Paul II, “Address of the Holy Father John Paul II to the 18th International Congress of the Transplantation Society (August 29, 2000)”
Evangelium Vitae sect. 86;

Nov. 7th: ____________________________

Stem Cells: What is all the fuss about? Read: Catholic Bioethics Chapter 5, Health Care Ethics, Chapter 7
Ethical issues in infants

Genetics: When Christian Faith and Genetics Meet: A Practical Group Resource

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=0&sid=15748cf9-f4bf-4cc5-843f-40989b962d89%40pdc-v-sessmgr03

Nov. 14 Reading Week

November 21: No Class Please attend Colloquium on Conscience Nov. 20th and write a two page summary on one presentation that interested you. To be handed in on Nov. 28th.

Nov. 28: Medical Research: Ethical Conduct for Research involving Human Persons

Gender Dysphoria: Congregation for Catholic Education, Male and Female He Created Them (2019)
http://www.educatio.va/content/dam/cec/Documenti/19_0997_INGLESE.pdf

Moral Distress
Global Health Issues

Dec. 5: Course review and evaluation
Presentation of final papers

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.
In case of personal or family emergency, please contact the professor as soon as possible to obtain permission for an extension. Without permission, late submissions will be penalized by 5% per day after the due date.

Course Attendance
No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes
Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity
Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances
Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.
## Grading System

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### Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

**Regulations**

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5” x 11” paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:


Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.
Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

**Academic Regulations**

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

**Related Academic Matters**

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

**Other Related Policies**

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

**Recording of Lectures**

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

**Student Accessibility Services:**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu.