

Scott C. Williamson

EXT 284

Schlegel 306

BIOMEDICAL ETHICS

Fall 2012

Course Description

Is a physician morally obligated to tell a terminally ill patient that he or she is dying? Can euthanasia be morally justified? This course is designed to introduce students to the study of decision-making and principles in the field of biomedical ethics. Students will evaluate both a secular approach and a Christian approach to the morality of certain acts and practices in medicine and medical research. 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.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Evaluate secular and Christian approaches to biomedical ethics
- Understand the principles of biomedical ethics
- Reflect theologically on medical technology, the personhood of the patient, and death
- Articulate a social justice position on access to health care

Requirements

1. Class participation (30%)
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 **December 6**, the last day of class (40%)
3. Take-Home Midterm distributed on October 11 and due on **October 23**(25%)
4. 10-15 minute Oral Report on the topic that you researched for your paper (5%)

Texts

- *Biomedical Ethics*(BE), DeGrazia, Mappes, and Brand-Ballard
- *Bioethics: A Christian Approach in a Pluralistic Age* (BCA), Rae and Cox

LPTS Policies

Use of Inclusive Language:

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God. See for further assistance, http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

Academic Honesty:

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Multiple occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For the Seminary policy, see The Code of Student Conduct, 6.11; the Student Handbook, p. 19.

Special Accommodations:

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (kmapes@lpts.edu) during the first two weeks of a semester and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Citation Policy:

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides:

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Attendance Policy:

According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session.

Calendar of Topics

September 6	Introduction to the course
September 11	Principles of Biomedical Ethics BE, 26-54 BCA, 56-61, 74-78
September 13	The Professional-Patient Relationship BE, chapter 2, 58-103
September 18	The Professional-Patient Relationship BE, chapter 2, 103-141
September 20	*Submit a paper topic* Contested Therapies and Biomedical Enhancement BE, chapter 3, 144-187
September 25	Contested Therapies and Biomedical Enhancement BE, chapter 3, 187-241
September 27	Human and Animal Research BE, 243-260, 292-313
October 2	Death and Life-Sustaining Treatment BE, chapter 5
October 4	*Submit a paper outline* Death BCA, chapter 7

October 9	Suicide and Euthanasia BE, 376-418
October 11	*Midterm exams distributed* Suicide and Euthanasia BE, 418-453
October 16 & 18	*Research and Study*
October 23	*Midterm exams due* Abortion and Embryonic Stem-cell research BE, chapter 7
October 25	Genetics and Human Reproduction BE, chapter 8, 523-577
October 30	Genetics and Human Reproduction BE, chapter 8, 577-620
November 1	Social Justice and Access to Health Care BE, 623-637 BCA, chapter 8
November 6	Religious Approaches to Biomedical Ethics BCA, chapter 1
November 8	*Submit a first draft of your essay* Medical Technology in Theological Perspective BCA, chapter 3
November 13	The Sacredness of Human Life BCA, chapter 4

November 15	Personhood BCA, chapter 5
November 20	The Common Good BCA, chapter 6
November 22	*Thanksgiving recess*
November 27	*No Class. Work on your essay and report*
November 29	Employing a Christian Approach to Bioethics BCA, chapters 9, 10, and conclusion
December 4	Oral Reports
December 6	*Final essays due* Oral Reports