Course Title: Contemporary Moral Issues
Semester: Fall 2016
Instructor: Deacon Larry Vaclavik
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Course Profile

1.0 Course Description
This course will build upon the principles and coursework utilized in the introductory course in moral theology. Conducted in a seminar format, this course will engage students in study, reflection, conscience formation and decision-making relative to contemporary issues in medicine, the use of medical technology, genetic research and biomedical science.

1.1 Course Goals
- Knowledge of the principles of medical morality and their practical application.
- Knowledge of principal resources, directives and Church documents which address the principles and application of health care morality.
- Familiarity with distinctive approaches to Catholic moral teachings from natural law and basic goods theory to virtue ethics.

2.0 Required Textbooks and Materials

3.0 Optional Textbook


4.0 Additional Web Resources


5.0 Other Text Resources


David F. Kelly, Medical Care at the End of Life: A Catholic Perspective, Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2006


6.0 Class Format

Classes will consist of lecture and student lead presentations with classroom discussion. Reading will be a critical element of the course. While the course will be primarily lecture and presentation in format, class discussions will be utilized to determine the appreciation and understanding of materials covered. Promptness is expected of students for all regular class sessions and for all class assignments.

7.0 Course Requirements & Grading

a. In class presentations & discussion participation 50%
b. Final exam 50%

8.0 In-Class Presentation

Students will be expected to make an in-class presentation regarding one of the topics covered in the class. The presentation must address the following:
a. The reasons why the topic is an issue in health care and moral issue
b. An explanation of the issue and its development
c. What the church has taught concerning this issue
d. What the U.S. Catholic Health Care Directives state on the issue
e. Recent developments and documents addressing this issue
f. Present one case presenting this issue in a complex setting
g. Presentations can be made using a PowerPoint
h. Notes and additional documentation should be submitted
i. Twenty minutes will be allowed for each presentation and discussion depending on class size.

9.0 Course Schedule -

1.0 October 18, 2016
Well-being, Medicine & Virtue: Foundations of Health Care Ethics

A. Austriaco, Biomedicine & Beatitude: Introduction & Chapter 1
B. Leies, Handbook on Critical Life Issues: Chapters 1 - 5
C. Ethical and Religious Directives: Introduction and Parts One & Two

Optional:
D. Medical Ethics: Sources: Chapters 1 (The View of the Person), 2 (Normative Concepts), 3 (Formation of Conscience), 16 (Catholic Health Care), 22 (Dignity of the Person), 65 (Right to Healthcare) and 71 (Suffering)

2.0 October 25, 2016
Beginning of Human Life, Abortion and Eugenics

A. Austriaco, Biomedicine & Beatitude: Introduction & Chapter 2
B. Leies, Handbook on Critical Life Issues: Chapters 6 - 8 & Appendix A
C. Ethical and Religious Directives: Part Four

Optional:
D. Medical Ethics: Sources: 4 (Abortion), 9 (Anencephaly), 32 (Disposal of Fetal Remains), 66 (RU-486)
3.0 November 1, 2016
Procreation and the Beginning of Human Life

A. Austriaco, Biomedicine & Beatitude: Introduction & Chapter 2

B. Leies, Handbook on Critical Life Issues: Chapters 6 - 8

C. Ethical and Religious Directives: Part Four

D. “Instruction Donum Vitae on Respect for Human Life” see Leies’ Handbook, Appendix D

E. “Instruction Dignitas Personae on Certain Bioethical Questions” Introduction and Parts 1 and 2

Optional:

F. Medical Ethics: Sources: (10 Artificial Insemination and Assisted Reproductive Technologies), 36 (Gamete Intra-Fallopian Transfer), 44 (Infertility), 46 (Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection), 59 (Preimplantation Diagnosis)

4.0 November 8, 2016
Research, Genetics in Research and Therapy, and Cloning

A. Austriaco, Biomedicine & Beatitude: Chapter 7

B. Leies, Handbook on Critical Life Issues: Chapters 9 & 10

C. “Instruction Dignitas Personae on Certain Bioethical Questions” see Leies’ Handbook, Appendix E

Optional:

D. Medical Ethics: Sources: Chapters 18 (Cloning), 26 (Embryo), 34 (Gene Therapy), 35 (Genetic Testing and Counseling), and 69 (Stem Cells), 64 (Research on Human Subjects)
5.0 November 15, 2016
Clinical Encounter, Patients & Doctors, Confidentiality and Consent

A. Austriaco, Biomedicine & Beatitude: Chapter 4


C. Ethical and Religious Directives: Part Three

Optional:

D. Medical Ethics: Sources: Chapters 39 (Health Care Professionals), (Pain Relief), 56 (Palliative Care), 62 (Psychotherapy), 19 (Confidentiality), 45 (Informed Consent), 50 (Living Wills), 61 (Proxy Consent), and 76 (Truth Telling)

6.0 November 22, 2016
End of Life, Euthanasia, Death and Dying,

A. Austriaco, Biomedicine & Beatitude: Chapter 7

B. Leies, Handbook on Critical Life Issues: Chapters 12 - 15

C. Ethical and Religious Directives: Part Five

D. Declaration on Euthanasia, Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, see Appendix C in Leies’ Handbook

Optional:

E. Medical Ethics: Sources: Chapters 5 (Advance Directives), 11 (Assisted Suicide) 14 (Brain Death), 21 (Death- Determination of), 23 (Do Not Resuscitate), 30 (Euthanasia), 33 (Futile Care), 41 (Hospice), 42 (Hydration and Nutrition), 58 (Physician Assisted Suicide), 75 (Terminal Sedation) and 78 (Withholding and Withdrawing Life Support)
Organ Donation and Transplantation

A. Austriaco, Biomedicine & Beatitude: Chapter 6

B. Leies, Handbook on Critical Life Issues: Chapters 11 & 12

Optional:

C. Medical Ethics: Sources: 73 (Surgery), 53 (Ordinary and Extraordinary Measures), 54 (Organ Donation and Transplantation), 52 (Non-Heart-Beating Donors)

8.0 December 16, 2016


A. Austriaco, Biomedicine & Beatitude: Chapter 8

B. Leies, Handbook on Critical Life Issues: Chapters 12 - 15

C. Ethical and Religious Directives: Part Six