University of St. Thomas School of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary

Bioethics Course Syllabus

YSM/YLSM/YMM 6304A

Bioethics

Spring 2018

Thursday, 8:30-11:15 am

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Office Hours: by appointment

A. Course Description

This course offers an introduction to basic principles and topics in Bioethics. The subjects covered will include; issues at the beginning of life; issues at end-of-life; regenerative ethics; reproductive ethics; comparative ethics; and a comprehensive study of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs). Engagement with community resources will also occur.

B. Objectives

- To demonstrate comprehensive understanding through reading and discussion of the Ethical Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs).
- To situate and apply various doctrines of the Church regarding ethical dilemmas that will be encountered in parish life.
- To bring a pastoral understanding to difficult ethical dilemmas encountered by the faithful.
- To compassionately engage in dialogue to better pastorally counsel faithful struggling with difficult ethical dilemmas.
- To compassionately engage an ecumenical and secular audience with a strong Catholic understanding of Bioethics.

**C. Required Texts:**


**D. Suggested Texts:** (on reserve in library only)

**Specific Catholic Focus:**
- USCCB, *ERDs*.

**General Secular Focus:**
- Albert R. Jonsen, *A Short History of Medical Ethics* (New York: Oxford
University Press, 2008).

E. Calendar:

All classes are 8:30-11:15

Thursday, 1/18
Thursday, 1/25
Thursday, 2/1
Thursday, 2/8
Thursday, 2/15
Thursday, 2/22
Thursday, 3/1
Thursday, 3/8
Thursday, 3/15-no class; Spring Break
Thursday, 3/22
Thursday, 3/29-no class: Holy Thursday
Thursday, 4/5
Thursday, 4/12
Thursday, 4/19
Thursday, 4/26
Thursday, 5/3
Finals: Week 5/7-10.

Topical Outline
(will not be sequential due to scheduling)

ERDs- Practical Principles
Dignity-Human Trafficking
Women’s Issues
Ecumenical Ethics
End of Life
Beginning of Life
Reproductive Technology
Palliative & Hospice Care
Euthanasia
Advance Directives
Children’s Ethics
Transplantation
Regenerative Technology
Cooperation & Complicity

F. Course Grading:

Participation - 35% (substantive participation)
Presentations - 35%
Final Exam - 30%

G. Participation & Attendance

Substantive and meaningful participation is expected in each class. Participation is expected with various speakers, case studies, and other discussions.

Grading Standards
An “A” is superior in engagement and participation with well thought through views, personal experiences, and complex concepts.
A ”B” is above average in engagement and participation. Participation will have above average thought through views that will be interspersed with personal experiences and complex concepts.
A “C” is a competent effort in the above categories.
A “D” is earned with little engagement or participation.
An “F” is earned with no engagement or participation.

All guests and presenters will be treated with respect and appreciation.

Attendance is expected. Students are required to attend each class in accordance with the standards of the University of St. Thomas and St. Mary's. Absences: students will not receive participation points or attendance credit for a missed class. Second class absence will be penalized double; third class absence will be penalized triple, and so forth, unless express permission for extenuating circumstances is granted.
Tardiness will not be acceptable and course grading will be impacted. Academic Integrity is expected. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and dealt with per UST Handbook Guidelines.

H. Presentations

Using a selected Ethical Religious Directive or appropriate principle (chosen by student from a predetermined list), each student will make a 15 minute Power Point Presentation. The presentation should include appropriate Church Teaching and moral principles but also should include pertinent pastoral implications. When appropriate the presenter should demonstrate knowledge of opposing views and theological opinions. An appropriate handout must be prepared for the entire class. A case study (real or hypothetical) must accompany the presentation. Proper source notations are expected.

I. Examinations

The PowerPoint presentations will constitute the midterm grade. The final examination will be partially written (definitions) and the balance oral (case studies). The final exam will be a multiple-choice written exam with appropriate definitions meaningful to the course. The oral portion of the exam will be a case study involving material presented in class.

An “A” will be given for superior organization of thoughts, compelling evidence, recognition of appropriate ERD and the ability to articulate a pastoral response to the given situation.

A “B” will be given for above average organization of thoughts, compelling evidence, recognition of appropriate ERD and ability to articulate a pastoral response to the given situation.

A “C” will be given for competent effort and organization of thoughts, compelling evidence, recognition of appropriate ERD and ability to articulate a pastoral response to a given situation.

A “D” will be given for below average effort and organization of thoughts, and inability to articulate compelling evidence or the
recognition of appropriate ERD and ability to articulate a pastoral response to a given situation. An “F” will be given for inability recognize or articulate an appropriate pastoral response.

**It is imperative to be attentive and participatory in case studies presented throughout the course to ensure your ability to successfully matriculate through this course material.**

**J. Incompletes**

Incompletes will not be given except for the most serious circumstances.

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact Counseling and Disability Services Office in Crooker Center on the main campus of UST. This office can be reached at 713-525-6953 or 713-525-2169.