

4ST722 : Bioethics
July 2010 : Course Syllabus

Instructor: William C. Davis, Adjunct Professor of Systematic Theology, RTS;
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Texts, Required:

Meilaender, Gilbert, *Bioethics: A Primer for Christians*, 2nd edition (Eerdmans, 2004), ISBN: 0802829090.
VanDrunen, David, *Bioethics and the Christian Life: A Guide to Making Difficult Decisions* (Crossway Books, 2009), ISBN: 978-1433501449.

Texts, Recommended:

Mappes, Thomas, and David DeGrazia, *Biomedical Ethics*, 6th edition (McGraw Hill, 2006), ISBN 0-07-297644-6 (for students interested in the theoretical and philosophical arguments surrounding medical ethics).
Pence, Gregory E., *Classic Cases in Medical Ethics*, 3rd edition, McGraw-Hill, 2000. ISBN 0-07-303986-1 (for students serving in the hospital context or hospital ethics committees).

Written Assignments: Students will complete two of the following, observing the due dates specific to the two chosen. Selection of options and the details of interviewee and/or book title are **due July 31, 2010 by midnight.**

- 1. Final Exam** distributed July 24, **due by August 7, 2010 (postmarked or e-mailed).**

Short answer and essay exam over the central distinctions, principles, issues, and cases in the readings, lectures and class discussions. Open book and notes; five page single-spaced maximum length.

- 2. Narrative & Analysis: Rough Draft due August 21, 2010; Final Draft due 10 days after receipt of instructor's comments.**

1500-2000 word Narrative reporting the actual experience(s) of a Christian medical professional (MD, RN, etc.) dealing with end of life care. Narratives will be based on interview data collected the student. 1000-word Analysis of the most significant themes and concerns evident in the narrative for Christian readers.

3. **Book Review: Rough Draft due August 14, 2010; Final Draft due 10 days after receipt of instructor's comments.**

2500-3000 word Review of a widely-available title offering guidance for Christians (or of interest to Christians) regarding Bioethical decisions or topics.

Committee/Class Participation: In-class Committee deliberations, class discussion, and attendance will contribute to this portion of the grade.

Grading: Grades will be calculated using the following percentages:

Written Assignment #1.....	40%
Written Assignment #2.....	40%
Participation.....	20%

Schedule of Topics, Readings & Assignments:

July 9-10 ***Bioethics Basics and the Challenge of End of Life Care*** : Roles, rights, and duties; informed consent; DNR orders, Artificial Nutrition & Hydration; terminal care

Reading: no reading required, but all of Meilaender would be nice

July 16-17 ***Human Dignity and the Pressures Attending Technology*** : Reproductive technologies, stem cell therapies, clinical trials, etc.

Reading: Meilaender, chapters 1, 5-9, 12
Van Drunen, chapters 1-3, 7-9

July 23-24 ***Challenges the Church Must Prepare to Face*** : Pandemics, allocation of scarce resources; obligations to fund care when insurance and government will not; genetic testing, counseling, and manipulation

Reading: Meilaender, chapters 2-4, 10-11
Van Drunen, chapters 4-6
Supplemental excerpts from Mappes & DeGrazia and Pence, depending on issues raised in the first two weekends.

July 31 **Selection of Assignment Choices Due (with details)**

August 7 **Final Exam Due**

August 14 **Rough Draft of Book Review Due**

August 21 **Rough Draft of Narrative & Analysis Due**

August (later): **Final Draft(s) due (10 days after receipt of instructor's comments)**