4ST722 : Bioethics
July 2010 : Course Syllabus

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


Texts, Recommended:


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)