



ERSKINE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and His Church

ET 750 - Medical Ethics

Spring 2011 – Due West Campus

Fridays, 1 PM – 5 PM (2/11, 3/11, & 4/8)

Saturdays, 9 AM – 5 PM (2/12, 3/12, & 4/9)

Course Faculty

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Course Description

Medical Technology and successful treatment of many medical conditions have advanced at such a rapid rate that an increasing number of ethical dilemmas now face us as individuals and as members of society. This course is a broad overview of medical ethics. It is separated into three intensive weekends that begin on Friday afternoon and continue all day on Saturday. During the first weekend, an overview of ethical reasoning will be presented that will include philosophical and religious sources. It will end with a discussion of principlism, the primary source of ethical decision-making used in American hospitals. Ethical issues at the beginning of life will be the theme of the second weekend. The third weekend will primarily be a presentation of end of life issues. Case studies will be presented and discussed each weekend.

The course is designed as an elective for seminary students. It can be audited by ministers or others who have an interest in medical ethics.

Course Objectives

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for ministry within the Christian church and in the world. Medical ethical issues cut to the core of who we are as persons made in the image of God. These issues significantly impact belief and ministry. The central objective of this course is the preparation of seminary students and others to address medical ethical issues so they may effectively minister to individuals and communities.

Specific objectives include:

1. To understand secular and religious sources of ethical reasoning in medical ethics
2. To develop a consistent Christian approach to medical ethics
3. To gain a sound knowledge of the medical ethical issues that face our culture
4. To be prepared to counsel others and to participate in discussions related to medical decision-making
5. To familiarize oneself with medical ethical resources

Course Requirements

1. Attendance at all sessions is required. Exceptions will be evaluated individually. One should not sign up for this course if it is anticipated that one would miss more than three hours of classes.
2. Each student will sign a statement verifying that all required reading was completed.
3. Participation in class discussion and mock consults is expected.
4. A short paper (1000 words) will be due by midnight of March 2nd. This should be an analysis of a beginning of life ethical dilemma. One is expected to write a summary of the issue and his/her solution using ethical reasoning and information gained from the readings and/or references. Footnotes should be included.
5. A second 1000 word paper is due by midnight of March 30th. This should be an analysis and discussion of an end of life ethical dilemma. The same expectations as #4 apply.
6. A research paper will be due by midnight of April 29th. It must be at least 3000 words and should explore a medical ethical issue that is of particular interest to the student. The issue should deal with a concern that a pastor could potentially face. Footnotes and at least four references are required. Students are free to discuss potential ideas with the faculty at any time.
7. The Erskine Theological Seminary style and form standard for all Masters level programs is required.

Grading

Beginning of Life Paper	15%
End of Life Paper	15%
Final Paper	30%
Readings	20%
Class Participation	20%

Dates to Remember

1. February 11 & 12, 2011: 1st Weekend
2. March 2, 2011: 1st paper due
3. March 11 & 12, 2011: 2nd Weekend
4. March 30, 2011: 2nd paper due

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| 5. April 8 & 9, 2011: | 3 rd Weekend |
| 6. April 29, 2011: | Research paper due |
| 7. May 12, 2011: | Final grades due |

Required Textbooks

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal of the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

Jonsen, Albert R. *Bioethics Beyond The Headlines-Who Lives? Who Dies? Who Decides?* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005. ISBN: 0-7425-4524-5

Orr, Robert D. *Medical Ethics and the Faith Factor: A Handbook for Clergy and Health-Care Professionals.* Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-8028-6404-8.

VanDrunen, David. *Bioethics and the Christian Life: A Guide to Making Difficult Decisions.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-4335-0144-9

Mottram, Kenneth P. *Caring for Those in Crisis: Facing Ethical Dilemmas with Patients.* Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2007. ISBN: 10: 1-58743-191-2

Additional Resources on Reserve in McCain Library

1. John Kilner, Christopher Hook, and Diann Ustal, editors, *Cutting Edge Bioethics.*
2. John and Paul Feinberg, *Ethics for a Brave New World.*
3. Nigel Cameron, Scott Daniels, and Barbara White, editors, *Bioengagement: Making a Christian Difference through Bioethics Today.*
4. John Kilner, Arlene Miller, and Edmund Pellegrino, editors, *Dignity and Dying-A Christian Approach.*
5. Scott B. Rae and Paul Cox, *Bioethics-A Christian Approach in a Pluralistic Age.*
6. Edmund Pellegrino and David Thomasma, *The Christian Virtues in Medical Practice.*
7. Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, *Principle of Biomedical Ethics.*

Course Outline and Schedule

February 11 and 12, 2011

Friday PM

- 1-2 Introduction to the Medical Ethics course
- 2-3 Philosophical basis for medical ethics
- 3-4 Theological basis for medical ethics
- 4-5 Video

Saturday AM

- 9-10 Codes, Covenants, and Oaths
- 10-11 Introduction to Principlism
- 11-12 Video

Saturday PM

- 1-2 Autonomy
- 2-3 Justice
- 3-4 Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
- 4-5 Mock consult

March 11 and 12, 2011

Friday PM

- 1-2 Beginning of Life—Personhood
- 2-3 Neonatology Issues
- 3-4 Stem Cells and Cloning
- 4-5 Video and discussion

Saturday AM

- 9-10 Assisted Reproduction
- 10-11 Genetic Issues
- 11-12 Video

Saturday PM

- 1-2 Abortion
- 2-3 Newborn Issues
- 3-4 Pediatric Ethical Issues
- 4-5 Mock Consult

April 8 and 9, 2011

Friday PM

- 1-2 Advance Directives—Aging
- 2-3 Life Sustaining Treatments
- 3-4 Futility
- 4-5 Video

Saturday AM

- 9-10 Law and End of Life
- 10-11 Assisted Suicide
- 11-12 Video

Saturday PM

- 1-2 Organ Donation/Transplantation/Brain Death
- 2-3 Hospice/Palliative Care
- 3-4 Mock Consult
- 4-5 Wrap Up

Drop/Add/ and Course Withdrawal

Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **binding contract** and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures **prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term**. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student’s receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **No exceptions will be made to this policy.**

Incompletes

The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.”

Language about God and Humanity

Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church’s historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions

Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information.

Office Hours

The professors do not have an office in Due West and are unable to keep regular office hours. If you need to contact us, the preferred method of communication is by e-mail due to our non-seminary obligations. We are available by phone, but may need to call back at a time convenient to all parties.

Attendance

Class participation is considered an important part of the total educational experience at Erskine Seminary. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and are responsible for the mastery of all materials required in the course. Each professor will indicate in writing the specific class attendance policy at the beginning of each course. In general, students are allowed up to three hours of unexcused absence without penalty. Students wishing to take this course **must** attend the first weekend of the course.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community:

Plagiarism injures the community by inhibiting the recognition and cultivation of gifts imparted by the Spirit. Clearly un-attributed use of the words and/or ideas of others fails to give appreciative recognition of their gifts. But this illegitimate appropriation of the gifts of others also blocks the recognition and cultivation of the actual gifts of the person engaged in plagiarism.

Plagiarism creates an atmosphere of falsehood in the community's discernment and cultivation of gifts, both within the Christian community and in God's larger creation. Since freedom comes only by way of truth (Jn. 8:32), such falsehood can only result in captivity, and therefore has no place in the Christian community.

On this basis, the Seminary adheres to the following general requirements for the acknowledgement of sources of academic work. These requirements apply to both print and electronic media.

1. Quotations. Any sentence or phrase that a student uses from another source must be placed in quotation marks or, in the case of longer quotations, clearly indented beyond the regular margin. Any quotation must be accompanied (either within the text or in a note) by a precise indication of the source.

2. Paraphrasing. Any material that is paraphrased or summarized must also be specifically acknowledged in a note or in the text.

3. Ideas. Specific ideas that are borrowed should be acknowledged in a note or in the text, even if the idea has been further elaborated by the student.

4. Bibliography. All the sources consulted in the preparation of an essay or report should be listed in a bibliography.

In addition to plagiarism, the following related practices are also unacceptable compromises of the truth requisite to a free community:

1. Multiple submission. Failure to obtain prior written permission of the relevant instructors to submit work which has been submitted in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any other academic requirement at any institution.

2. False citation. The deliberate attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the material in question was not, in fact, obtained.

3. Submission of work done by someone else, either with or without that person's knowledge. Neither ignorance of the regulations concerning academic violations nor personal extenuating circumstances are an adequate defense against charges of plagiarism. The Seminary's provisions for "due process" apply in cases of alleged plagiarism.

[The italicized statement above is used by permission of The Lutheran Theological Seminary

at Philadelphia and Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, based upon a document adapted by LTSP, with permission, from “Princeton University Rights, Rules and Responsibilities,” 1990 Edition. Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.]

Occurrences of plagiarism shall be considered ‘documented’ when the instructor is able to produce documentary evidence that plagiarism has occurred, and when the instructor has reason to believe that the plagiarism was motivated by a deliberate attempt to receive credit for ideas or work not the student’s own. Where such plagiarism involves the theft of the academic work of another student, whether at Erskine or any other institution, it shall be designated ‘documented theft of another student’s work.’

The instructor involved, in consultation with the Dean, may recommend measures deemed appropriate. In cases of documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student’s work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

- Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
- Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
- Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Before such penalties are imposed, a committee of at least three faculty members must agree that they are appropriate to the case. Appeals in such cases may only be addressed, in writing, to the President of Erskine College and Theological Seminary.