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CS 635 Medical Ethics

James R. Thobaben

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MEDICAL ETHICS
CS 635
James R. Thobaben, Ph.D., M.P.H.
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

WILMORE: January 8, 2001 - January 12, 2001 8:30 - 6:30 (with meal break)

ORLANDO: January 22, 2001 - January 26, 2001 8:30 - 6:30 (with meal break)

TOTAL MEETING TIME IS 39 HOURS

Office Hours: during J-Term by appointment only

Office Location: Wilmore, McPheeters Center 307

Office phone number: (859) 858-2369

Home phone number: (859) 858-8058

e-mail: jim_thobaben@asburyseminary.edu

PURPOSE:

To prepare students for ministry by training them to analyze and address issues in the arenas of healthcare and biotechnology from a Christian perspective. To develop ministers who are responsive to the needs, contexts, and insights of parishioners and members of the larger community who are patients, family members of patients, or practitioners. To enable ministers to equip their congregations for understanding their moral responsibility in decisions about the delivery and receiving of health care and the impact of social decisions in health care and biotechnology on the broader community.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able:

To demonstrate competence with various Biblical and Christian traditions used in responding to moral issues in the fields of health care and biotechnology.

To demonstrate competence with various ethical categories and frameworks used in responding to health care and biotechnology issues.

To demonstrate competence in utilizing social and cultural analysis in response to contemporary health care and biotechnology issues.

To apply ethical analysis in developing responses to health care and biotechnology issues at a congregational and/or institutional level.

To recognize the distinctive insights arising from particular social locations (these include particularity arising from ethnic, gender, and class location; also, specific recognition of the insights of persons with disabling conditions).

To describe how responses to medical ethics problems shape society.

TEXTS:

REQUIRED

Beauchamp & Walters, Contemporary Issues in Bioethics (5th edition).

Thobaben, JR Bioethics as Christian Ethics (draft of upcoming book; provided)

Thobaben, JR "The Impact of Managed Care on the Moral Character of Rehabilitation Institutions" Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation 1997; 12(1):10-20. (*on library reserve*)

Thobaben, JR "A United Methodist Approach to End-of-Life Decisions: Intentional Ambiguity or Ambiguous Intentions" Christian Bioethics 1997; 3 (3): 222-248. (*on library reserve*)

"Durham Declaration" (*on library reserve or on Web*)

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCE (this text is not required; students are not responsible for these readings)

Lammers & Verhey, On Moral Medicine (2nd edition).

EXPECTATIONS:

Medical Ethics is a ONE-MONTH course. Students should read all of the Beauchamp and Walters material before the ONE-WEEK of class begins. You WILL be reading the draft text of the Thobaben book during the class week. Try to begin research on your term paper before class begins. The exam is given several days after the class meetings end and the final paper is due one week after. Think of this as a one-month course; do not try to cram all the reading into the week of classes.

Written Work: 16 - 18 page term paper. Term paper options #1 & #2 do not require approval of topic; #3 does. Make sure the paper includes a "fair" consideration of all major positions and a clear assertion of the position you hold. The papers should include moral reasoning explicitly intended for the Christian community, as well as arguments that would be coherent in a highly secularized setting. **Do not** focus on counseling issues, but on social and cultural factors and on moral reasoning.

#1 **Is health care a right?**

#2 **Is the use of human stem cells for research and, eventually, treatment morally acceptable?**

#3 **Open topic, but must focus on ethics, not counseling or pastoral care.**

All written work must be typed with 12 point type, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing. Do not include substantial quotes from Scripture; use citations. Written material will be evaluated for reasoning, referencing, and for structure and grammar. All references must be noted properly; include page numbers or download information, when appropriate. Follow page limit requirements. Required length of paper does not include reference or title pages. In accordance with ATS policy, all written work must use inclusive language when reference is made to human beings (male and female). This provides for both greater inclusion and greater precision.

Papers are graded anonymously. Each paper should include a title page with the student's name and birthday (in the month/day form; the year is not necessary). All subsequent pages should include only the birthday number, written in the top right corner.

Papers are due at 9:00 am on January 19 for Wilmore; due at 9:00 am on February 2 for Orlando students. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse.

Final Examination: A one-hour, in-class final. Part of the exam will be an objective examination over concepts in medical ethics and part will be a response to a case study. **The exam will be given on Tuesday January 16 at 1:00 pm in Wilmore and on Tuesday January 30 in Orlando.** As with the papers, the exam will be graded anonymously.

Participation: Students are required to complete all assigned readings. Acknowledgement of completion will be sought the last day of class. Failure to complete readings on time may result in a lowering of the final grade, as will poor attendance for class. The deduction for low participation and/or late or incomplete reading of assigned material will be up to 10% against the final grade (a full letter grade reduction).

FINAL GRADE:

Examination	30%	January 16	1:00 pm (Wilmore)
		January 30	1:00 pm (Orlando)
Term Paper	70%	January 19	8:30 am (Wilmore)
		February 2	8:30 am (Orlando)
Class Participation		Deduction if lacking	
Reading		Deduction if lacking	

Grade Range: Work for CS 635 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.

<i>A (93-100)</i>	=	<i>Unusually high quality, exceptional work</i>
<i>A- (90-92)</i>	=	<i>Far above average, fine work</i>
<i>B+ (87-89)</i>	=	<i>Above average for graduate work</i>
<i>B (83-86)</i>	=	<i>Very good, but average for graduate work</i>
<i>B- (80-82)</i>	=	<i>Slightly below average for graduate work</i>
<i>C+ (77-79)</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with noticeable inadequacies for graduate work</i>
<i>C (73-76)</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with gaps for graduate work</i>
<i>C- (70-72)</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work</i>
<i>D+ (67-69)</i>	=	<i>Minimal work, acceptable</i>
<i>D (63-66)</i>	=	<i>Minimal work, barely acceptable</i>
<i>D- (60-62)</i>	=	<i>Acceptable, but only with great reservation</i>
<i>F (> 60)</i>	=	<i>Failure; unacceptable work</i>

COURSE SCHEDULE

MONDAY

BASIC CONCEPTS IN ETHICS

REQUIRED: B & W 1-32

BASIC CONCEPTS OF HEALTH

REQUIRED: B & W 33 - 77; 78 - 97; 117 - 148; 164 - 188

RECOMMENDED: L & V 121 - 137; 242 - 261

HEALING, HEALTH, AND HOPE: Religion, Health, and Caregiving

RECOMMENDED: L & V 328 - 335; 356 - 372; 390 - 400; 878 - 882

TUESDAY

THE DISTRIBUTION OF DESIRED THINGS: Managed Care & 'Right' to Care

REQUIRED: B & W 355 - 426
Thobaben, JR "The Impact of Managed Care..."
Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation (12)1:10-20

RECOMMENDED: L & V 947 - 960

VIDEO: "Mud Creek Clinic"

WEDNESDAY

OTHERNESS?: Brain Injuries, Birth Defects, and Other Awkward Circumstances

REQUIRED: B & W 98 - 116; 511 - 606

RECOMMENDED: L & V 376 - 390; 679 - 692; 734 - 747; 826 - 845; 853 - 865

VIDEO: "Billy Broke His Head"

DECISIONS AND DESPAIR: Competence & Euthanasia

REQUIRED: B & W 149 - 163; 271 - 354

Thobaben, JR "A United Methodist Approach to End-of-Life..."
Christian Bioethics (3)3:222-248

RECOMMENDED: L & V 197 - 222, 666 - 678

VIDEO: "Selling Death"

THURSDAY

ALTERNATIVES IN REPRODUCTION: Accepting, Rejecting, and "Perfecting"

REQUIRED: B & W 189 - 270; 607 - 694

Durham Declaration

RECOMMENDED: L & V 270 - 276; 287-296; 509 - 524; 617 - 638

FRIDAY

GIVING AND GETTING: The Donation of Human Substances & Research (Human & Animal)

REQUIRED: B & W 427 - 510

RECOMMENDED: L & V 903 - 916

PUBLIC HEALTH

REQUIRED: B & W 695 - 781

FINAL THOUGHTS AND NEW CONSIDERATIONS

Field trips may alter the specifics of the schedule.