

THE ATHENAEUM OF OHIO
MT. ST. MARY'S SEMINARY OF THE WEST

CL 237: CATHOLIC MEDICAL ETHICS

Spring 2010

Course Description: See *Athenaeum Catalog (2008-2010)*, p. 57. This course explores the field of health care and the Roman Catholic reflection on various issues in medical ethics. After exploring different models of biomedical ethics, the course will examine specific topics and principles of medical ethics. Attention will be given to the recent Vatican Instruction *Dignitas Personae*.

Prerequisites: CL 230 Fundamental Moral Theology

Instructor: Father Earl K. Fernandes, S.T.D. (Tel: 233-6152); email: efernandes@athenaeum.edu.

Course Goals:

1. To examine various ethical models at work in contemporary health care.
2. To understand "Catholic" principles utilized in the field of medical ethics, including the principle of double-effect, principle of totality, and principle of cooperation.
3. To familiarize students with recent Church teaching on medical and bioethical questions.
4. To enable students to articulate and apply Church teaching to concrete scenarios.

Basic Texts:

- Janet E. Smith and Christopher Kaczor, Life Issues, Medical Choices: Questions and Answers for Catholics (Cincinnati: Servant Books, 2007), 188 pp.
- Other Assigned Readings (available on course page)

Outline of Course:

1. Introduction to Ethical Theories
2. Artificial Reproduction & *Dignitas Personae*
3. Human Dignity, Embryo Adoption, Rape Protocols
4. Informed Consent, Confidentiality, Truth-Telling
5. Organ Transplantation & the Principle of Totality
6. Death, Brain Death, PVS
7. Assisted Nutrition and Hydration; Ordinary & Extraordinary Treatment
8. Euthanasia; Principle of Double Effect
9. Conscience; Principle of Cooperation

Evaluation:

Class Participation (10 %): This includes attendance, reading, and class participation.

Quizzes (90 %): Each week there will be a short, objective quiz based upon assigned readings.

Projected Course Schedule and Readings**Week 1: Introduction; Philosophy of Medicine; Catholic Healthcare***Readings:*

- **Viridis**, Andrea. "Is it possible to define the nature of medicine?" *Medicina e Morale* 2008/4: 773-785.
- **Pellegrino**, Edmund. "Catholic Healthcare Ministry and Contemporary Culture: The Growing Divide." in *Urged on by Christ, Proceedings of the 21st Workshop for Bishops*, 13-30. Philadelphia: National Catholic Bioethics Center, 2007.
- **Smith/Kaczor**, qq. 1-2, pp. 1-8.

Week 2: History of Bioethics and Ethical Theories

- Notes Provided by Professor
- **Guinan**, Patrick. "Autonomy has not killed Hippocrates." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 9, no. 4: 681-688.

Week 3: Assisted Reproduction Technologies and *Dignitas Personae*

- **Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith**. "Instruction *Dignitas Personae* On Certain Bioethical Questions." 8 September 2008.
- **Brugger, E.** Christian, ed., "Symposium on *Dignitas Personae*." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 9, no. 3 (Autumn 2009): 461-483.
- **Smith/Kaczor**, qq. 18-24, pp. 60-73.

Week 4: Human Dignity and Embryo Adoption

- **Haas**, John. "Human Dignity and Health Care." *Ethics and Medics* 22, no. 2 (February 1997):1-2.
- **Smith/Kaczor**, qq. 10-17, pp. 33-59; q. 21, pp. 68-69.

Week 5: Rape Protocols/Morning After Pill; Confidentiality and the Principle of Informed Consent

- **Hilliard**, Marie. "*Dignitas Personae* and Emergency Contraception." *Ethics and Medics* 34, no. 2 (February 2009): 3-4.
- **Alvare**, Helen. "The Prevention of Pregnancy after Sexual Assault." in *Urged on by Christ, Proceedings of the 21st Workshop for Bishops*, 143-157. Philadelphia: National Catholic Bioethics Center, 2007.
- **Nelson**, Leonard. "Emergency Contraception Laws." In *Diagnosis Critical*, 163-173. Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor, 2009.

- **Cavagnaro**, Charles. "Confidentiality and Truth Telling." *Ethics and Medics* 20, no. 2 (July 1995): 1-3.
- **Smith/Kaczor**, qq. 29-34, esp. q.30, pp. 88-97.

Week 6: Organ Transplantation, Principle of Totality; Death (Brain Death, PVS, Coma)

- **Haas**, John. "The Principle of Totality." *Ethics and Medics* 20, no. 2 (February 1995): 1-3.
- **May**, William E. "Defining Death and Organ Transplantation." In *Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life*, 2nd ed., 315-360. Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor, 2008.
- **Smith/Kaczor**, qq. 44-48, pp. 120-132.

Week 7: Assisted Nutrition and Hydration; Ordinary and Extraordinary Treatment

- **Smith**, Russell. "Ordinary and Extraordinary Means." *Ethics and Medics* 20, no. 4 (April 1995): 1-2.
- **Guevin**, Benedict. "Ordinary, Extraordinary, and Artificial Means of Care." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 5 no. 3 (Autumn 2005): 471-479.
- **Henke**, Donald. "History of Ordinary and Extraordinary Means." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 5 no. 3 (Autumn 2005): 555-575.
- **John Paul II, Pope**. "Allocution to the International Congress on "Life Sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State: Scientific Advances and Ethical Dilemmas." March 20, 2004; available at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/2004/march/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20040320_congress-fiamc_en.html.
- **Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith**. "Responses to Certain Questions of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding Artificial Nutrition and Hydration." August 1, 2007.
- **Sanders**, Alan. "The Clinical Reality of Artificial Nutrition and Hydration for Patients at the End of Life." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 9, no. 2 (Summer 2009): 293-304.
- **Howland**, John. "A Defense of Nutrition and Hydration in Patients with Dementia." *National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 9, no. 4 (Winter 2009): 697-710.
- **Smith/Kaczor**, qq. 41-42, pp. 109-115.

Week 8: Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide; the Principle of Double Effect

- **Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith**. *Declaration on Euthanasia* (5 May 1980); available at http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/document_s/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19800505_euthanasia_en.html
- **Cataldo**, Peter. "Principle of Double Effect." *Ethics and Medics* 20, no. 3 (March 1995): 1-3.

- **Kaczor**, Christopher. "Double Effect Reasoning from Jean Pierre Gury to Peter Knauer." *Theological Studies* (1998): 297-316.
- **Smith/Kaczor**, q. 9, pp. 28-32; qq. 35-39, pp. 98-108.

Week 9: Suffering; Conscience (Personnel and Catholic institutions)

- **Pellegrino**, Edmund. "The Moral Status of Compassion." *Ethics and Medics* 20, no. 9 (September 1995): 3-4.
- "Avoiding Formal Cooperation in Health Care Alliances." In *Ethical Principle in Catholic Health Care*. Edited by Edward Furton, 139-146. Boston: National Catholic Bioethics Center, 1999.
- **Smith**, Russell. "Material and Formal Cooperation." *Ethics and Medics* 20, no. 6: 1-2.
- **Orr**, Robert D. "Medical Ethics and the Faith Factor: The Engendered Right of Conscience." *Ethics & Medicine* 26, no. 1(Spring 2010): 49-53.
- **Smith/Kaczor**, q. 3, pp. 8-15; qq. 38-39, pp. 102-109; qq. 49- 57, pp. 133-159.

Week 10: Conclusion