Course Syllabus
RGT 2911H – Catholic Bioethics
Regis College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2016

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Bridget Campion, PhD, Instructor
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Office Hours:	Thursdays 18:00- 19:00 or by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number:	RGT 2911H L0101
Course Name:	Catholic Bioethics
Course Location:	tba
Class Times:	Thursdays 16:00-18:00
Prerequisites:	None

Course Description

Using a case-based approach, and a combination of lectures and directed discussion, this course will explore foundational and current issues in Bioethics in light of Catholic tradition and teaching. Topics to include: bioethical issues at the beginning of life and end of life; research on human subjects; resource allocation and rationing; bioethics in a global context; principles of biomedical ethics; ethic of care; virtue ethics/Christian virtue ethics. The instructor will present an overview of each week's topic; however, the bulk of the class will be devoted to a discussion of the issue at hand. Students will be evaluated on two 3-5 page reflection papers, one midterm test, one final examination and class participation.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

- Ashley, Benedict M., Jean K. deBlois, and Kevin D. O'Rourke, *Health Care Ethics: A Catholic Theological Analysis*. Fifth edition. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2006.
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Declaration on Euthanasia" http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19800505_euthanasia_en.html
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Dignitas Personae* http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20081208_dignitas-personae_en.html

- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Donum Vitae*
  http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_1
  9870222_respect-for-human-life_en.html
- John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-
  ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html
- And readings as assigned (see weekly schedule)

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at
http://portal.utoronto.ca and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the
portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to
the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access
to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at
http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students. Students who have trouble accessing
Blackboard should ask [xxx] for further help.]

- Personal Website http://individual.utoronto.ca/jsmith

Course Learning Objectives

College Regis

BD Level
Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning
outcomes. (Not all categories will be required for all courses.)
   (A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS students will develop
   -- critical thinking skills through case work and directed discussion;
   -- effective communication skills through in-class discussions and assigned reflection papers;
   -- the ability to marshal factual information required for bioethical analysis through lectures and
   assigned readings;
   -- the ability to work collaboratively to moral and personal insight through directed in-class
   discussions.

   (B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL
   DISCIPLINES, through the readings and lectures students will develop:
   -- an understanding of approaches to Moral Theology and bioethical theory;
   -- an understanding of Catholic Church teaching on various bioethical issues;
   -- an understanding of historical and current intersections of Catholic Moral Theology and
   Bioethics

   (C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION students will have the opportunity:
   -- to become aware of personal assumptions and biases operative in their understandings of
   Moral Theology, Catholic Church teaching, and issues in Bioethics;
   -- to consider alternative approaches to and understandings of bioethical issues in light of
   Catholic Church teaching;

-- to have in-depth dialogue about issues, ethical theory, Catholic Church teaching and personal moral and spiritual development in a forum that is curated and safe.

(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP students will have:
-- a familiarity with current bioethical issues;
-- the capacity to bring critical thinking to those issues;
-- the ability to view those issues in light of Catholic Church teaching.

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in four areas.

(1)Two 3-5 page reflection papers, 20% each = 40%: writing in the first person, students will work through assigned questions critically, seeking depth and insight.

(2)Mid-term test = 20% : students will be evaluated on their knowledge of the assigned readings to date.

(3)Final examination (oral) = 30% : students will be evaluated on their knowledge of bioethical issues, applicable Catholic Church teaching, and their ability to work through both in a critical and insightful manner.

(4)Class participation = 10% : students will be evaluated on their contributions to in-class discussions, with quality of remarks given priority over quantity.

Grading System

       A+ (90-100)
       A (85-89)
       A- (80-84)
       B+ (77-79)
       B (73-76)
       B- (70-72)
       Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the

student's college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Late work (AD). To insert.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871. A student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters* http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up a utoronto email address which is entered in the ROSI system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses.

Course Schedule

Week 1
Day, Date Introduction to Catholic Bioethics; introduction to the study of Bioethics; what is a person?
READINGS: Ashley and O'Rourke, pp. 69-73; *Donum Vitae*.

Week 2
Day, Date Assisted human reproduction; ethical theories – deontology, utilitarianism, teleology.
READINGS: *Dignitas Personae*.

Week 3
Day, Date Prenatal diagnosis and selective termination of pregnancy; principles of biomedical ethics: nonmaleficence, beneficence, respect for patient autonomy, justice.
READINGS: A+O, pp. 248-264; *Evangelium Vitae* sect. 58-63.

Week 4
Day, Date Research on human subjects.
READINGS: A+O, pp. 113-123; *Tri-Council Policy Statement (2)*, Chapter 1, "Ethics Framework", pp. 2-13;
http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/pdf/eng/tcps2/TCPS_2_FINAL_Web.pdf

Week 5
Day, Date Consent and capacity; practice of informed consent, substitute decision-making. Video: "Mr. Nobody."
READINGS: A+O, pp. 57-60; Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*, sixth edition, pp. 117-129; 132-140.

Week 6
Day, Date Resource allocation and rationing; understanding justice.
READINGS: A+O, pp. 331-339; Beauchamp and Childress, *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* , sixth edition, pp.240-249.

Week 7
Day, Date Organ transplantation.
READINGS: John Paul II, "Address of the Holy Father John Paul II to the 18th International Congress of the Transplantation Society (August 29, 2000)"
http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2000/jul-

sep/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20000829_transplants.html ; *Evangelium Vitae* sect. 86; A+O, pp. 331-339.

Week 8
Day, Date

Health care professional-patient relationship; virtue ethics/Christian virtue ethics and health care.
READINGS: A+O, 38-49, 204-210.

Week 9
Day, Date

AIDS: Global lessons in health care.
READINGS: A+O, pp. 218-223; Eucebious Lekalakala, "A literature review of the impact of HIV and AIDS on the role of the elderly in the Sub-Saharan African community," *Journal of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences* doi: http://dx.doi.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/10:4102/hsag.v16i1.564

Week 10
Day, Date

End-of-life issues: Assisted suicide.
READINGS: A+O PP. 179-182; "Declaration on Euthanasia" .

Week 11
Day, Date

Forgoing treatment; use of pain relief at the end of life; principle of double effect.
READING: A+O, pp. 182-194; "Declaration on Euthanasia".

Week 12
Day, Date

Euthanasia and mercy killing; review.
READING: *Evangelium Vitae* sect. 64-67.

Exam Week
TBD