

04ST722: Bioethics
Winter 2019 : Course Syllabus

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Texts, Required:

Davis, *Departing in Peace* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 2017), ISBN: 978-1629952598.
Mitchell, Ben, and Riley, D. Joy Riley, *Christian Bioethics: A Guide for Pastors, Health Care Professionals, and Families* (B&H Academic, 2014), ISBN: 978-1433671142.
VanDrunen, David, *Bioethics and the Christian Life: A Guide to Making Difficult Decisions* (Crossway Books, 2009), ISBN: 978-1433501449.

Texts, Recommended:

Mappes, Thomas, and David DeGrazia, *Biomedical Ethics*, 6th edition (McGraw Hill, 2006), ISBN 0-07-297644-6 (for students interested in the theoretical and philosophical arguments surrounding medical ethics).
Meilaender, Gilbert, *Bioethics: A Primer for Christians*, 2nd edition (Eerdmans, 2004), ISBN: 0802829090 (for students interested in a thoughtful Lutheran approach).
Pence, Gregory E., *Classic Cases in Medical Ethics*, 3rd edition, McGraw-Hill, 2000. ISBN 0-07-303986-1 (for students serving in the hospital context or hospital ethics committees).

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 January 26 by midnight.**

1. Final Exam distributed January 21, **due February 2 by email.**

Short answer and essay exam over the central distinctions, principles, issues, and cases in the readings, lectures and class discussions. Open book and notes; 2000 word maximum length.

2. Book Review: Rough Draft due February 9; 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 challenges.

3. **Narrative & Analysis: Rough Draft due February 16; 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, infertility challenges, or behavioral health crises. Narratives will be based on interview data collected by the student. 1000-word Analysis of the most significant themes and concerns evident in the narrative for Christian readers.

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 (final draft).....	45%
Written Assignment #2 (final draft).....	45%
Participation.....	10%

Schedule of Topics, Readings & Assignments:

January 4-5 **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 Chapters 1-4 of Davis and Chapters 2-3 of Mitchell & Riley would be nice.

Jan 11-12 **Human Dignity and the Pressures Attending Technology** : Reproductive technologies, stem cell therapies, clinical trials, human-non-human hybrids, surgical augmentation, psychotropic therapies, etc.

Reading: Mitchell & Riley, Chapters 1-2, 5-7
Van Drunen, chapters 1-3, 7-9
Davis, Chapters 5-8

Jan 18-19 **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; pastoral care for addiction, gender dysphoria, etc.

Reading: Mitchell & Riley, Chapters 8-9
Van Drunen, chapters 4-6
Supplemental excerpts from Mappes & DeGrazia and Pence, depending on issues raised in the first two weekends.

Jan 26 **Selection of Assignment Choices Due (with details)**

Feb 2 **Final Exam Due**

Feb 9 **Rough Draft of Book Review Due**

Feb 16 **Rough Draft of Narrative & Analysis Due**

February (later): **Final Draft(s) due (10 days after receipt of instructor's comments)**

Note: *Work that is late more than one business day without warning or advance agreement will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per business day. Do not hesitate to ask for more time.*

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)