SEMINAR ON BIOETHICS:
RELIGIOUS AND HUMANISTIC ETHICS
179-729-01

TOPICS

Session 1:  Introduction to the Course (January 23)
Session 2:  Religious and Humanistic Ethics (January 30)
Session 3:  Joseph Fletcher's Approach to Ethics (February 6)
Session 4:  Fletcher on Humanness, Abortion, and Fetal Research (February 13)
Session 5:  Fletcher on Pediatric and Adult Euthanasia, the Determination of Death, and Organ Donation (February 20)
Session 6:  Fletcher on Human Research, the Allocation of Health-Care Resources, and Genetic intervention (February 27)
Session 7:  Paul Ramsey's Approach to Ethics (March 6)
Session 8:  Ramsey on Abortion and the Determination of Death (March 20)
Session 9:  Ramsey on Euthanasia and the Prolongation of Life and on Organ Donation (March 27)
Session 10: Ramsey on the Allocation of Health-Care Resources and on Human Research, Especially Pediatric Research (April 3)
Session 11: Richard McCormick's Approach to Ethics (April 10)
Session 12: McCormick on Abortion (April 17); Guest: Richard A. McCormick
Session 13: McCormick on Euthanasia and the Prolongation of Life and on Organ Donation (April 24)
Session 14: McCormick (and Ramsey) on Pediatric Research (May 3)
ASSIGNED READINGS

Session 2: Religious and Humanistic Ethics (January 30)


Session 3: Joseph Fletcher's Approach to Ethics (February 6)


Session 4: Fletcher on Humanness, Abortion, and Fetal Research (February 13)

Fletcher, Humanhood, pp. 7-19, 132-139, and 93-105.

Session 5: Fletcher on Pediatric and Adult Euthanasia, the Determination of Death, and Organ Donation (February 20)

Fletcher, Humanhood, pp. 140-148, 149-158, 159-165, and 65-78.

Session 6: Fletcher on Human Research, the Allocation of Health-Care Resources, and Genetic intervention (February 27)

Session 7: Paul Ramsey's Approach to Ethics (March 6)


Spring Vacation (March 8-18)

Session 8: Ramsey on Abortion and the Determination of Death (March 20)


Session 9: Ramsey on Euthanasia and the Prolongation of Life and on Organ Donation (March 27)

Ramsey, The Patient as Person, pp. 113-164, 165-197.

Session 10: Ramsey on the Allocation of Health-Care Resources and on Human Research, Especially Pediatric Research (April 3)


Session 11: Richard McCormick's Approach to Ethics (April 10)


Session 12: McCormick on Abortion (April 17), Guest: Richard A. McCormick


Session 13: McCormick on Euthanasia and the Prolongation of Life and on Organ Donation (April 24)


**Session 14:** McCormick (and Ramsey) on Pediatric Research (May 3)


The requirements of the course are as follows:

1. Completion of all assigned readings.
2. Preparation of a brief critical essay at mid-semester.
3. Completion of a twenty-page term paper at the end of the semester.

The critical essay should not exceed five double-spaced pages in length. It should evaluate critically one of the assigned readings from the first half of the course. In particular, it should seek to answer questions like the following: What are the author's presuppositions? What are the major steps in his or her argument? Does the conclusion follow? The critical essay is due on Wednesday, March 27.

The term paper may take one of several forms: a comparison of two authors on an issue; a critique of an author or a position; a constructive position of your own which you think is more adequate than those developed by the three major authors; or another form discussed with and approved by the instructor. The primary goal of the paper should be to exhibit your ability to analyze and criticize the work of others and/or to develop a coherent argument for a constructive position of your own. The term paper is due on Wednesday, May 10.

The components of the final course grade will be the following:

Term Paper: 50%
Critical Essay: 25%
Completion of assigned readings, as evidenced in papers and participation in class discussions: 25%