1.) Course Description

An advanced study of the application of ethical theory to selected problems in health care relating to the problem of the sanctity versus the quality of life.

2.) Required Texts

John Ladd, Ethical Issues Relating to Life and Death, Oxford University Press, 1979

Paul Ramsay, Ethics at the Edges of Life, Yale University Press, 1978

3.) Course Requirements

a) Take home test
   To be handed out March 4th. Due March 9, 1985.

b) Essay (1200-1500 words) Due April 4th

c) Final Examination

4.) Determination of Grade

a) Term Essay 40%

b) Term Test 30%

c) Final Examination 30%

5.) Essay Topics

Choose ONE (1) from the following:

1. Discuss critically the view that some severely defective newborn children ought not to be aggressively treated.

2. Defend or refute the view that improved terminal care is always morally preferable to active voluntary euthanasia.

3. With reference to prenatal screening when, if ever, would it be wrong not to have an abortion.
6) Synopsis of Course

1) Sanctity/Quality of Life—The Conceptual and Ethical Parameters
   a) An exploration of the meaning of the terms “sanctity of life” and “quality of life” and the contexts of moral decision making in which they occur.
   b) The problems and promise (?) of the indicators of personhood approach.

2) Sanctity/Quality of Life Decisions Relating to the Beginnings of Life
   a) Sanctity/quality of life in utero—the problems of screening for genetic diseases.
   b) Sanctity/quality of life ex utero—the problems of non-treatment of severely handicapped, newly born infants.

3) Sanctity/Quality of Life Decisions Relating to the End of Life
   a) Sanctity/quality of life and the aging process.
   b) Sanctity/quality of life and incurably handicapped.

7. Office Hours: University Hall, Room 207

   Mondays and Wednesdays: 9:30-10:20 a.m.
   Tuesdays and Fridays: 10:30-11:20 a.m.
   Other times by appointment.