Description

This course provides a critical examination from a moral point of view of selected concepts related to human sexuality. Issues in bioethics related to concepts of human sexuality include understandings of nature, perversion, sexism, parenting, reproduction, status of the conceptus, viability, sex roles, sex practices, sex research, and sex therapy. The relationship of these concepts to the practice of medicine and moral judgment about the involvement of medicine in these areas will be surveyed.

Objectives

1. Analyze and clarify the nature of the philosophy of human sexuality and the relationship of medicine to human sexuality.

2. Describe and evaluate sexual morality, its sources, evolution, and relationship to medicine.

3. Assist students in recognizing the role of values in medical judgments about human sexuality.

4. Illustrate how one's philosophy of medicine influence one's view of what is and is not proper to medicine.

5. Introduce the student to relevant literature and resources for additional research.

Requirements:

1. Regular attendance and participation in class.

2. Reading of assigned literature.

3. Preparation of two case studies of between 3-5 pages.

4. Candidates for honors should prepare a research paper in consultation with the instructor.

Recommended Reading:

Class Schedule:

May 21  
Organizational Meeting

May 22  
Introduction to Ethics and Bioethics
Read: Beauchamp and McCullough, *Medical Ethics*, pp. 1-51

May 28  
Sex, Society, and Medicine
Read: John Duffy, "Sex, Society, Medicine: A Historical Comment"

May 29  
Sex, Religion, and Medicine
Read: Ron Green, "The Irrelevance of Theology for Sexual Morality"
James McCartney, "Contemporary Controversies in Sexual Ethics"

June 4  
Moral Reflections on Persons as Sexual Beings
Read: Lisa Cahill, "On the Connection of Sex to Reproduction"
J. Fortunata, "Masturbation and Women's Sexuality"

June 5  
Sexual Morality: Discovering or Inventing Right and Wrong
Read: H.T. Engelhardt, "Having Sex and Making Love"

June 11  
First Case Study Due
Controlling One's Reproductive Capacities: Contraception, Sterilization, Abortion
Read: S.A. Ketchum, "Medicine and the Control of Reproduction"

June 12  
Choosing One's Sex  Guests: Cele and Jackie
Read: L. Lothstein, "Sex Reassignment Surgery"
B. Brody, "Marriage, Morality, and Sex-Change Surgery"
R. Springer, "Transsexual Surgery"
L. Lothstein, "Theories of Transsexualism"

June 18  
Technological Reproduction and Concepts of Parenting
Read: Vatican II, "Fostering the Nobility of Marriage and the Family"
J. Mitchell, "The Ideology of the Family"

June 19  
'Sick' and 'Healthy' Sexuality
Read: A. Soble, "Philosophy, Medicine, and Health Sexuality"
J. Margolis, "Concepts of Disease and Sexuality"
R. Kolodny, "Medical Perspectives on a Healthy Sexuality"
June 25
Sexual Variations: Homosexuality  Guests: Doug and Mary
Read: F. Suppe, "The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the
American Psychiatric Association"
D. Levy, "Perversion and the Unnatural as Moral
Categories"
S. Harding, "The Politics of the Natural"

June 26
2nd Case Study due
Sexual Variations: Sado-Masochism  Guest: Wayne
Read: L. Mass, "Coming to Grips with Sadomasochism"

July 2
Bisexuality
Read: E. Coleman, "Bisexuality"
J. Paul, "The Bisexual Identity: An Idea Without Social
Recognition"
M. Shively, C. Jones, and J. DeCecco "Research on Sexual
Orientation: Definitions and Methods"

July 3
Changing Lifestyles and Medical Practices
Guest: Nellie Grose, M.D.
Read: J. Golden, "Changing Lifestyles and Medical Practice"
N. Grose and E. Shelp, "Human Sexuality"

July 9
Sex Research and Therapy
Read: J.R. Meyners, "Sex Research and Therapy"
V. Bullough, "Sex Research and Therapy"

July 10
AIDS: A Case Study in Sexuality and Moral Values
Guests: Michael and Patient