Fall Semester, Mondays, 10:00 - 12:00.

Instructor: John R. Williams, Ph.D., Principal Research Associate, Center for Bioethics, Clinical Research Institute of Montreal; Faculty Lecturer, Religious Studies, McGill University. Phone: 842-1481, ex. 339 (office); 482-5579 (home).

Description: This course will examine religious views on life, death and the human body in order to determine their significance for the ethical issues involved in organ transplantation.

Goals:
(1) to familiarize students with the ethical dimension of contemporary medical science and practice;

(2) to determine the influence of religious beliefs on the formulation and resolution of the ethical problems posed by one medical procedure---organ transplantation;

(3) to compare and contrast the ethical teachings of different religious traditions insofar as they impact on this particular issue.

Assignments and Evaluation:
- one major paper (approx. 2500 words), topics to be chosen in consultation with the instructor;

- one self-designed and answered examination based on material covered in class and in the pertinent literature (5 questions, with answers within strict limits of 400 and 600 words each). Questions and answers will be evaluated according to general quality, importance and originality.

Each assignment is worth 50% of the final mark.
Religious Studies 260-672A

THEOLOGY AND BIOETHICS

Class Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<th>Methodology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Interrelation of Theology and Bioethics. Introduce the course; explain and situate the topic. Lecture and discussion.</td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Transplantation: scientific, clinical and ethical aspects. Familiarize students with the issue to be used in course. Lectures and panel discussion.</td>
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<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Life and Death (the view of the organ recipient): medical, legal and philosophical perspectives. Familiarize students with dominant secular concepts of life and death as a backdrop to discussion of religious concepts. Panel discussion (1st hour); class discussion (2nd hour).</td>
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<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Life and Death: Christian perspectives. Explore and analyse influence of Christian views on life and death for recourse to transplantation. Panel discussion (1st hour); class discussion (2nd hour).</td>
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<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Life and Death: non-Christian religious perspectives. Explore and analyse influence of Jewish and Hindu views on life and death for recourse to transplantation. Panel discussion (1st hour); class discussion (2nd hour).</td>
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<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Images of the Body (the view of the organ supplier): medical, legal and philosophical perspectives. Familiarize students with dominant secular concepts of the human body as a backdrop to discussion of religious concepts. Panel discussion (1st hour); class discussion (2nd hour).</td>
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Nov. 3. Images of the Body: religious perspectives. Explore and analyse influence of Christian and Hindu concepts of the human body for the supply of organs for transplantation. Panel discussion (1st hour); class discussion (2nd hour).

Nov. 10. Images of the Body: religious perspectives. Explore and analyse influence of Muslim and Japanese concepts of the human body for the supply of organs for transplantation. Panel discussion (1st hour); class discussion (2nd hour).

Nov. 17. Ethical Issues in Transplantation: allocation of resources. Familiarize students with both macro and micro-allocation problems; explore possible influence of religion on these issues.

Nov. 24. Ethical Issues in Transplantation: informed consent. Familiarize students with different approaches to consent for organ procurement; analyse these from religious perspectives.

Dec. 1. Ethical Issues in Transplantation: the sale of organs. Analyse from religious perspectives this option for increasing the supply of organs for transplantation.
Leading Questions: Life and Death (the view of the organ recipient)

1. How important is the continuation of an individual's life? What efforts should be made to avoid death?

2. Are the answers to these questions relative to each individual, to each culture or sub-culture, or are there any universal human attitudes on these matters?

Leading Questions: Images of the Body (the view of the organ supplier)

1. How important is bodily integrity to an individual, whether during life or after death? What are the major considerations in deciding whether to donate an organ?

2. Are the answers to these questions relative to each individual, to each culture or sub-culture, or are there any universal human attitudes on these matters?