

# Medical Ethics

Biblical Theological Seminary  
Hatfield, Pennsylvania, 19440  
Winter Quarter 1992-93.  
Three Credits

**STEVE LEVICOFF, Ph.D.**  
*Visiting Lecturer in Law*

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*Syllabus:*

**MEDICAL ETHICS**

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A comprehensive survey of ethical and legal issues surrounding health care, medical treatment, and medical technology including advance directives and living wills, resource allocation, genetic engineering and biomedical issues, transplantation issues, extraordinary means of procreation, withholding and termination of treatment, and death and dying. Both the ethical and legal perspectives will be covered in terms of counseling patients and their family members on medical choices. Geared toward both pastors and counselors, as well as others who may serve on hospital or health care ethics committees. Three hours.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

1. To acquaint students with pertinent trends in medicine and health care along with the clinical, ethical, and theological perspectives needed on the part of pastors, Christian counselors, and other ministry professionals.
2. To provide the student with a theoretical base regarding ethical issues in medicine and health care from both a Christian and secular perspective, with an emphasis on developing biblical positions on current issues.
3. To equip the student with a knowledge of how cases dealing with" ethical questions are dealt with on hospital and health care ethics committees, as well as how they have been adjudicated in civil courts.
4. To aid the student developing pastoral and Christian counseling skills that incorporate an awareness of current trends in ethics, law, and technology.

**METHODS EMPLOYED TOWARD SECURING COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Lectures and in-class discussions.
2. Reading and analysis of theoretical backgrounds in medical ethics from both the biblical and secular perspectives.
3. Discussion and dialogue on actual and hypothetical case studies. An assigned paper dealing with an ethical or legal question the student might address in a clinical setting based on his or her ministry environment (e.g., pastor, counselor, institutional chaplain, or treatment professional).

**PROCEDURES USED IN TESTING ACHIEVEMENT OF COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Class discussions to assess the comprehension of the students in the subject material presented.
2. Evaluation of the paper.
3. Final examination, which will include a concept question dealing with how an ethics committee or court might deal with a specific case scenario.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*N.B.* Books included in the course bibliography represent both biblical and non-Christian perspectives. The inclusion of a book in this bibliography does not necessarily indicate that its position is endorsed by the seminary or instructor.

- Frame, John M. *Medical Ethics: Principles, Persons, and Problems*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co., 1988.
- Holder, Angela Roddey. *Legal Issues in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, 2d ed. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985.
- Humphry, Derek. *Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying*. Eugene, OR: The Hemlock Society, 1990.
- Kilner John F. *Who Lives? Who Dies? Ethical Criteria in Patient Selection*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1990.
- Kübler-Ross, Elisabeth. *On Death and Dying*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1969.
- Lammers, Stephen E., and Allen Verhey. *On Moral Medicine: Theological Perspectives in Medical Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987.
- Levicoff, Steve. *Christian Counseling and the Law*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.
- Munson, Ronald. *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1992.
- Palmer, Larry I. *Law, Medicine, and Social Justice*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
- Payne, Franklin E., Jr. *Biblical Medical Ethics: The Christian and the Practice of Medicine*. Milford, MI: Mott Media, 1985.
- Rogers, John, ed. *Medical Ethics, Human Choices*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1988.
- Shilts, Randy. *And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987.
- Smith, David H., and Robert M. Veatch, eds. *Guidelines on the Termination of Life-Sustaining Treatment and the Care of the Dying*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1987.
- Spring, Beth, and Ed Larson. *Euthanasia: Spiritual, Medical & Legal Issues in Terminal Health Care*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1988.

## COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1.	12/8/92	<i>Introduction</i> . A survey of the health care system and opportunities for Christian input in medical ethics questions, as well as the need for ministry professionals to be aware of clinical issues. Survey of current issues in medical ethics, including a theoretical background to addressing ethical questions and a comparison of biblical versus secular world views regarding health care decisions. <i>Readings in Munson text</i> : pp. 1-45.
2.	12/15/92	<i>Ethics versus Law</i> . A survey of current legal issues in health care including patient autonomy, confidentiality, disclosure, informed consent, the rights of adult versus younger patients, and the right to refuse treatment. Will also include an exploration of liability issues for pastors and counselors involved in the treatment process. <i>Readings in Munson text</i> : pp. 263-310.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
3.	12/22/92	<i>Religion and Medical Ethics.</i> A survey of Christian and non-Christian viewpoints on medical questions, including how Christian perspectives differ from those of other groups such as Jews, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christian Scientists.
4.	1/5/93	<i>Beginning of Life Issues.</i> Ethical and legal questions regarding abortion, in vitro fertilization, reproductive technologies, birth defects, genetic engineering, and extraordinary means of post-natal treatment. <i>Readings in Munson text:</i> pp. 47-102, 407-429.
5.	1/12/93	<i>Continuum of Life Issues.</i> Ethical questions surrounding organ donation and transplantation, artificial organs, ventilation and dialysis, nutrition and hydration, and current medical questions on patients in persistent vegetative state. <i>Readings in Munson text:</i> pp. 521-576.
6.	1/19/93	<i>End of Life Issues I.</i> An examination of death and dying, including medical definitions of death and an emphasis on the interaction of pastors and counselors as part of the treatment team. <i>Readings in Munson text:</i> pp. 142-203 (also covers next session).
7.	1/26/93	<i>End of Life Issues II.</i> An exploration of advanced directives and living wills, withholding and termination of treatment, assisted suicide, comfort care, hospice care, extraordinary means of medical treatment, and life-supporting technology.
8.	2/2/93	<i>HIV and AIDS.</i> An ethical, legal, and theological survey of HIV and AIDS from a pastoral care and counseling perspective, including the role of "significant others," experimental treatments, social and political issues, and the involvement of AIDS and HIV-positive patients in the ministry of the church. <i>Readings in Munson text:</i> pp. 205-257.
9.	2/9/93	<i>Sociological Perspectives in Health Care.</i> Social aspects of current issues under discussion including resource allocation and distribution, experimentation and clinical trials, deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill, and the national health insurance debate. <i>Readings in Munson text:</i> pp. 577-626.
10.	2/16/93	<i>Integrating Ethics, Religion, and the Law.</i> A survey of religious rights and the law vis-à-vis treatment decisions, including an examination of recent court cases dealing with medical issues.
11.	2/23/93	<i>Final Examination.</i>

## TEXTBOOKS

*(For credit only; does not apply to audit students.)*

Don't be discouraged by all of the books listed on the syllabus. There is only one primary textbook required for the course . . .

Munson, Ronald. *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1992.

### DISCUSSION

The Munson text covers ethical, legal, and clinical issues. While *Intervention and Reflection* is a secular text, it presents theological issues as well and covers some of the differences in perspectives among different religious groups.

For assigned readings, see the "Course Outline" section of the syllabus (page 3). The readings do not cover the entire text, and are not mandatory for the class sessions. You are not responsible for all of the case details; remember, the object of this course is to help *you* determine an ethical position on the issues we cover and how you might counsel persons who are confronted with these issues. Ideally, the readings in the text and the class sessions will complement each other, not duplicate each other. Through this balance, you will be able to adopt a biblical perspective while understanding how the secular professional world operates.

The course outline is flexible insofar as we may shorten or lengthen coverage of some topics, depending on your needs and interests. (However, we'll likely cover all of the major topics listed.) The outline is geared primarily to provide a structure we can follow as you determine what those needs and interests are. Our key goal will be to address those issues you are likely to confront in the course of your ministry, whether it be pastoral, counseling, etc.

My own book, much of which developed out of my original concept for this course, will be closer to the class sessions. However, it won't be available until next year. Also, I prefer not requiring my own books for courses I teach, and it's not required here.

The bottom line: By using the Munson book as the primary text for the course and combining your readings with our class sessions and discussions, you'll have a better idea of "the big picture" in medical ethics.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE PAPER

*(For credit only; does not apply to audit students.)*

### **ASSIGNMENT:**

Write a paper, 12 pages *maximum* text (though you may use additional pages for endnotes and bibliography), in exposition-critique format on a pertinent question regarding the impact of law on medical ethics. The subject is for you to choose, but should be submitted for approval by Tuesday, January 12, 1993 (week #5).

Papers will be due on Tuesday, February 9th (week #9). *No extensions.* (Late papers will have five points deducted per day.)

Choosing a subject by January 12th will allow you to "get your feet wet" and develop an idea of what subject you would like to address. You will then have four more weeks (a reasonable amount of time) to develop your paper.

### **RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS:**

You may quote from your text(s), any other book listed in the course bibliography, or any book not listed in the bibliography.

This may require at least one trip to a medical school or law library. (Not as significant as baptism or marriage, but you should find this a valuable experience.) Guidelines for using these professional libraries and the "tricks of the trade" in medical/legal research will be discussed in class (week #2 or #3).

### **CITATIONS:**

If you have an academic background, you should format your notes according to the Turabian style manual. Do *not* use APA, MLA or parenthetical references. All references should be done as endnotes, not footnotes (even if you have a word processor that can do automatic footnoting). If you are an attorney or have a legal background, you may use the Uniform System of Citation (Harvard Blue Book).

Regarding size: the maximum text length is 12 pages, though you may use additional pages for notes and bibliography. However, please don't write 12 pages of text and 50 pages of notes. The length will give you an opportunity to do a *reasonable* job at research without knocking you out, while helping to ensure that the academic requirements for a graduate-level course are met.

## **COURSE GRADING AND FINAL EXAMINATION**

*(For credit only; does not apply to audit students.)*

### **OVERALL GRADING:**

Overall grading will be done on the following basis: one-third of your grade for class participation (discussions, dialogues, etc.), one-third for the paper, and one-third for the final exam.

I'm not concerned with whether you know all citations or minute facts; the key question we'll be addressing is whether you can analyze a given situation within the framework of your own professional area - pastoral, counseling, clinical, chaplaincy, etc. Therefore, there's a degree of flexibility in how you can approach the law as it will have an impact on your particular ministry.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION:**

The final examination will be given on Tuesday, February 23, 1993 (week #11).

The exam will consist of 25 questions worth two points each in short answer, multiple-choice, or true-false format for a total of 50 points.

Two essay questions will be worth 25 points each, and will deal with an actual or hypothetical concept in which you will be asked how an ethics committee would be likely to handle a case.

The actual cases and hypothetical case scenarios we discuss in class will provide a guideline on the type of response you should generate to the type of "what if" question that is likely to appear on the final exam.

# MEDICAL ETHICS

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Winter 1992

## *ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY*

*N.B.* Books included in the course bibliography represent both biblical and non-Christian perspectives. The inclusion of a book in this bibliography does not necessarily indicate that its position is endorsed by the seminary or instructor.

The National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature has over 18,000 books dealing with the related issue of biomedical ethics, philosophy, and social policy, and has catalogued over 90,000 journal articles in the subject. The selection below hardly covers what's available but is designed to present a cross-section of today's literature in the subject.

## WORKS LISTED IN SYLLABUS BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Frame, John M. *Medical Ethics: Principles, Persons, and Problems*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co., 1988.

Frame, professor of apologetics and systematic theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in California, presents a theoretical overview of medical ethics from a Reformed perspective. He provides numerous biblical references to support his ethical positions, but does not include significant case studies to illustrate contemporary situations.

- Holder, Angela Roddey. *Legal Issues in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, 2d ed. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985.

Addressed to pediatricians, this comprehensive volume includes chapters on prenatal issues (including amniocentesis, genetic counseling, and genetic screening), fetal research, the minor's consent to treatment, and liability issues.

- Humphry, Derek. *Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying*. Eugene, OR: The Hemlock Society, 1990.

Humphry's book is essentially a "How To" directed to lay readers who are considering suicide. It is a disturbing volume, but valuable because it presents the world view of the right-to-die movement and its chief proponents, the Hemlock Society.



- Kilner, John F. *Who Lives? Who Dies? Ethical Criteria in Patient Selection*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1990.

A comprehensive analysis of fifteen different criteria used within medicine to determine patient selection for organ transplantation. Kilner is associate professor of social and medical ethics at Asbury Theological Seminary.

- Kübler-Ross, Elisabeth. *On Death and Dying*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1969.

A seminal study in the process of dying, including the stages a person goes through after he or she has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. Kubler-Ross now subscribes heavily to New Age teachings, but this is not reflected in this early secular work.

- Lammers, Stephen E., and Allen Verhey. *On Moral Medicine: Theological Perspectives in Medical Ethics*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987.

An anthology of theoretical essays in medical ethics written from a theological perspective that addresses general perspectives between religion and medicine, the physician-patient relationship, and applied issues in medical ethics. Includes both liberal and conservative Christian perspectives.

- Levicoff, Steve. *Christian Counseling and the Law*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1991.

Directed to both pastors and professional Christian counselors, this book addresses legal and ethical issues in counseling law and explains how these issues impact religious counselors differently than they affect secular counselors or psychologists.

- Munson, Ronald. *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 4th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1992.

**PRIMARY TEXT FOR THIS COURSE.** Written by a professor of the philosophy of science and medicine at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, this is one of the most comprehensive texts available in medical ethics today. Both secular and theological perspectives are presented, including conservative and liberal positions, in a wide variety of ethical and sociological issues. While the basic text is by Munson, an extensive selection of readings are included by other authors, as is a variety of case studies.

- Palmer, Larry I. *Law, Medicine, and Social Justice*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

A specialist in family, medical, and criminal law who teaches at Cornell University, Palmer integrates law and social justice in an theoretical examination of issues such as abortion, living wills, care for AIDS patients, and organ transplantation.

- Payne, Franklin E., Jr. *Biblical Medical Ethics: The Christian and the Practice of Medicine*. Milford, MI: Mott Media, 1985.

A practicing physician who writes from a Reformed perspective, Payne examines both theoretical and practical issues in this classical work. This book is valuable in terms of integrating Biblical thought with current issues in medicine, though Payne often comes across as Reconstructionist in his thinking.

- Rogers, John, ed. *Medical Ethics, Human Choices*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1988.

An anthology of articles on medical ethics geared toward the layperson. Written by a health ethics committee formed by Mennonite Mutual Aid in 1985, the book is less conservative than might be expected from the Mennonites.

- Shilts, Randy. *And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987.

Written from a secular perspective by the AIDS reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, this is the most extensive treatment on the development of AIDS as a health epidemic. Shilts, a longtime gay activist, is an outstanding investigative journalist, and his book includes the story of the now-famous "Patient Zero," to whom much of the early spread of AIDS in the United States has been attributed.

- Smith, David H., and Robert M. Veatch, eds. *Guidelines on the Termination of Life-Sustaining Treatment and the Care of the Dying*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1987.

Written by several scholars from the Hastings Center, this is a standard work dealing with medical ethics issues for critical care patients. For pastors or counselors who anticipate counseling patients and/or family members in this area, this book is the best resource for learning how the medical profession makes key treatment decisions that may result in termination of extraordinary treatment.

- Spring, Beth, and Ed Larson. *Euthanasia: Spiritual, Medical & Legal Issues in Terminal Health Care*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1988.

Part of Multnomah's "Critical Concerns" series, this book focuses on the death-with-dignity movement and provides a solid analysis of the differences between euthanasia and natural death. Covering both ethical and legal issues, it contains extensive material on living wills, life-sustaining treatment, and the hospice movement, and has excellent resource material for churches confronting these issues.

### **ADDITIONAL BOOKS, ETC., OF INTEREST**

- Belli, Melvin, and Allen P. Wilkinson. *Everybody's Guide to the Law*. New York: Harper & Row, 1986, 1987.

If you have never studied the law from a general perspective and would like to know more, this is the best "lay person's guide" to several areas of the law including torts, property, real estate, domestic relations, criminal law, and other relevant topics.

- Clarke, Juanna Nancarrow. *Health, Illness, and Medicine in Canada*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1990.

With debate continuing over the pros and cons of the health care systems in the United States and Canada, this book provides a comprehensive overview of the Canadian medical system. Basically a text in medical sociology (similar to that of Conrad and Kern's book, below), this one presents the subject from a perspective that reflects Canadian health care theory.

- Conrad, Peter, and Rochelle Kern, eds. *The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives*, 3d ed. New York: St. Martin's Press.

A comprehensive introduction to medical sociology that examines health care issues from the perspective of social policy. Presents an overview of the health care system in the United States and addresses the economic and sociopolitical issues involved.

- Durland, William, ed. *Conscience and the Law: A Court Guide for the Civilly Disobedient*, 2d ed. Colorado Springs, CO: Center for Law & Pacifism, 1982.

The best guide available on the legal aspects of civil disobedience. Written from a peace movement perspective, but has direct relevance to nonviolent civil disobedience in general as well as current movements such as Operation Rescue.

- Graham, Billy. *Facing Death and the Life After*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987.

What Kübler-Ross did in terms of theory, Bill Graham does in terms of the practical issues involved in the process of death. Written from a Christian perspective, Graham integrates biblical principles into the difficult process of dealing with death, producing a valuable resource for both pastoral counselors and lay persons.

- Koop, C. Everett. *The Right to Live, The Right to Die*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1976.

Written before he became Surgeon General of the United States, Koop addresses abortion and euthanasia from the medical, personal, social, and theological perspectives. This book strongly influenced Francis Schaeffer and led to their later collaboration on *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?*

- \_\_\_\_\_ . Koop: *The Memoirs of America's Family Doctor*. New York: Random House, 1991.

In addition to Koop's autobiography, this book contains chapters outlining his views on current issues such as smoking, AIDS, Baby Doe and the rights of handicapped children, and abortion. It also includes a reprint of the controversial report, "Understanding AIDS: A Message from the Surgeon General," released during his years in the Reagan administration.

- Lamb, H. Richard, ed. *The Homeless Mentally Ill*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association, 1984.

An anthology that traces the problem of the mentally ill homeless to the deinstitutionalization movement of the early 1980s. Includes medical and legal aspects of homelessness, as well as institutional resources and sociopolitical factors.

- Montgomery, John Warwick. *Slaughter of the Innocents: Abortion, Birth Control and Divorce in Light of Science, Law and Theology*. Westchester, IL: Cornerstone Books, 1981. Written by the eminent Christian apologist, this book is valuable for the transcript of dialogues it contains involving several theologians who address these issues.

- Walter, James J., and Thomas A. Shannon, eds. *Quality of Life*. New York: Paulist Press, 1990. Reflecting a viewpoint based on Catholic moral theology, this book examines both theoretical and practical issues dealing with prenatal diagnosis and abortion, imperiled newborns, permanently unconscious patients, the care of the elderly, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. Philosophical and public policy issues are also discussed in this extensive anthology.