NU 601: Christian Social Principles

Spring, 1996

Instructor: Brian M. Kane, Ph.D.
Office: Dooling Hall, Room 240
Office Hours: M, 2-4 p.m.; Tu/Th 2-3:30 p.m.
Phone: (610) 282-1100, ext. 1274

Course Description
This course analyzes the impact of Christian social principles relative to current health care including political awareness of health issues. It is designed to provide nurses with an awareness of theological foundations and principles so that they may fully develop their own moral positions on contemporary issues.

Course Objectives
- To understand the theological, philosophical and scientific foundations for contemporary health care ethics
- To understand the principles of Christian health care ethics
- To challenge the consistency of each student's ethical thought

Course Method
The predominant emphasis of the course will be on seminar and cooperative learning. Lectures will be used as appropriate.

Texts
**Course Requirements**

Class Participation: Each student is expected to actively participate in the class. Asking questions, and discussing the implications of the issues are essential to this course.

Thesis Papers: Each student will research and write a paper on an ethical topic which is related to nursing practice. The essay should explain how the author's opinion is consistent or inconsistent with contemporary thought on the issue. The approximate length of the paper is 12-15 pages, exclusive of the bibliography. It is suggested that each student speak to the instructor about their topic.

Examinations: There will be two written examinations for the course. One will occur at midterm, on February 20th. The other will be a final examination given on the last class day.

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**Grading System**

The examinations are graded on a scale of 100. The thesis papers and class participation are calculated as letter grades, using the following numerical equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course requirements are weighted in this way:

- Class Participation: 15%
- Final Examination: 25%
- Midterm Examination: 30%
- Thesis Paper: 30%

The Final Grade will reflect the attainment of the following averages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>74-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>69 or Below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructor
15 January 1996

Department Chairperson
15 January 1996
Class Schedule

I. Introduction to the Course
☐ January 16  In this class, we will discuss the syllabus and various approaches to health care ethics. Read: E&M (Feb. 1994, July 1994, Jan. 1995)

II. Basic Moral Principles

III. Values and Issues in Christian Bioethics
   A. Professionalism
☐ February 6  Covenants and Professions Read: Lammers 15; Lifton, Part I: Ch. 1, 2, 4.
☐ February 13  Truth-telling Read: Lammers 86; E&M (July 1995)
   B. The Sanctity of Life
☐ February 20  Midterm Examination/Defining "Life" Read: Lammers 17, 18, 20
☐ March 19  Abortion Read: Dianne Irving, "Scientific and Philosophical Expertise," [On Reserve]; Lammers 66
   C. Health Care and the Common Good
☐ March 26  Allocation of Resources Read: E&M (April 1995, May 1995); Lammers 102, 103
☐ April 2  Care of Neonates Read: Lammers 76, 78, 79, 81
   D. Nature and Its Mastery
☐ April 16  Research Issues Read: Lammers 100, 101
☐ April 23  Death and Suffering Read: Lammers 72, 73; E&M (Aug. 1995)
☐ April 30  Final Examination
Selected Resources


_________. *The Hastings Center Report.* [Published bi-monthly since June, 1971]

The Kennedy Institute for Ethics, Georgetown University. National Reference Center for Bioethics Literature. (1-800-633-3849)

*The Linacre Quarterly.* [Published quarterly since 1972]


McCormick, Richard. *Health and Medicine in the Catholic Tradition.* New York: Crossroad, 1984. (This is one in a series of books that have been sponsored by the Park Ridge Center. Other titles are *Health and Medicine in the Lutheran Tradition,* etc.)


*Second Opinion* [A journal published by the Park Ridge Center]


Veatch, Robert M. *Cross Cultural Perspectives in Medical Ethics: Readings.* Boston: Jones and Bartlett, 1989.


Walters, LeRoy, and Tamar Joy Kahn. *Bibliography of Bioethics.* Washington, DC: Kennedy Institute of Ethics. [This is an annual resource, published since 1975]