

Course Syllabus
RGT 3936H ISSUES IN CATHOLIC BIOETHICS: END-OF-LIFE CARE
REGIS COLLEGE
Toronto School of Theology
Winter 2017

Instructor Information

Instructor: Bridget Campion, PhD, Instructor
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Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00 am – 11:00 am or by appointment

Course Identification

Course Number: RGT 3936H L0101
Course Name: Issues in Catholic Bioethics: End-of-Life Care
Course Location: tba
Class Times: Mondays 11:00am – 1:00pm
Prerequisites: 1 course in Catholic Bioethics (or equivalent) or permission of instructor

Course Description

Using a case-based approach, and a combination of lectures and directed discussion, this course will explore issues in end-of-life care in light of Catholic Church teaching and tradition. Topics to include: understanding death and suffering; decision-making at the end of life; mercy killing; physician-assisted death in Canada; hospice care; organ donation; forgoing treatment; children and end-of-life care; poverty and death. Students will be evaluated on one 3-5 page reflection paper; one poster presentation with bibliography; one written examination; and class participation.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

Please see assigned readings in the Course Schedule

Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask [xxx] for further help.]

- Personal Website <http://individual.utoronto.ca/jsmith>

Course Learning Objectives

College: Regis

BD Level

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Not all categories will be required for all courses.)

(A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS. With the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify and explain current ethical issues in end-of-life care;
- identify and explain the positions and arguments associated with those issues;
- employ fundamental principles of Moral Theology including the principle of double effect, Christian virtue ethics to analyze those positions and arguments;
- employ bioethical theories such as principlism, ethic of care, virtue ethics, to analyze those positions and arguments;
- identify and apply relevant Catholic Church teaching to reframe issues in end-of-life care;
- investigate multi-disciplinary sources and integrate empirical evidence into the students' understanding and analysis of issues in end-of-life care;
- synthesize end-of-life issues, the positions and arguments, principles of Moral Theology, bioethical theories, Catholic Church teachings, empirical evidence, and personal experience and insights with regard to current issues in end-of-life care.

(B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES. With the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- explain Moral Theology's interest in end-of-life care;
- recognize the pastoral foundations of Moral Theology,
- reframe Moral Theology as an applied discipline rather than one that is solely theoretical.

(C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION. With the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify and question their own assumptions and biases operative in their understandings of Moral Theology, Catholic Church teaching, and issues in end-of-life care;
- imagine and construct alternative approaches to and understandings of Moral Theology, Catholic Church teaching and issues in end-of-life care;
- recognize and integrate the spiritual aspects of end-of-life care into their [students'] analysis of the issues and arguments;
- generate personal and spiritual insights through their reflections on end-of-life issues.

(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP. With the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- explain and analyze current issues in end-of-life care that may be of concern to parishioners;
- explain and apply relevant Catholic Church teaching to those issues;
- validate the relevance of Theology in current discussions of end-of-life issues.

Evaluation

Requirements

The final grade for the course will be based on evaluations in four areas.

(1) Two 3-5 page reflection paper (15% each) – writing in the first person, students will work through an assigned question, seeking depth and insight.

(2) Poster presentation with bibliography (25%) – students will research a particular question (a list of possible topics will be provided) and design a poster presenting their findings which they will present to the class. They will also provide a written bibliography.

(3) Final examination (30%) (written) – students will be evaluated on their knowledge of end-of-life issues, applicable Catholic Church teaching, and their ability to work through both in a critical and insightful manner.

(4) Class participation (15%) – students will be evaluated on their contributions to in-class discussions, with quality of remarks given priority over quantity.

Grading System

- A+ (90-100)
- A (85-89)
- A- (80-84)
- B+ (77-79)
- B (73-76)
- B- (70-72)
- Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Late work (AD). To insert.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades

may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm>) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks>) and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>. A student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up a utoronto email address which is entered in the ROSI system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students should be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Monday, January 9

Intro to RGT 39XX. Death: Physical, Theological and Ethical Considerations.

Reading: John Hardwig, "Going to Meet Death: The Art of Dying in the Early Part of the Twenty-first Century," *Hastings Center Report* 39.4 (2009), pp. 37-45

<http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/222368373?accountid=14771>; John Paul II "Salvifici Doloris"

w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-

ii/en/apost_letters/1984/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_11021984_salvifici_doloris.html

Week 2

Monday, January 16

Topic: Suffering: Physical, Theological and Ethical Considerations

Reading: John Paul II "Salvifici Doloris"; Stan Van Hooft, "The Meaning of Suffering," *HCR* 28.5 (1998), pp. 13-19; Eric J. Cassel, "The Nature of Suffering and the Goals of Medicine," *The New England Journal of Medicine* 306.11 (1982), pp. 639-645.

Week 3

Monday, January 23

Topic : "Good Death": Hospice Care and Pain Relief at the End of Life

Reading: Tineke A. Abma, "Struggling with the Fragility of Life: A Relational-Narrative Approach to Ethics in Palliative Nursing," *Nursing Ethics* 12 (2005), pp. 337-348 doi:10.1191/0969733005ne7990a; Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Declaration on Euthanasia"

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19800505_euthanasia_en.html

Week 4

Monday, January 30

Topic : Mercy Killing

Reading: B.A. Manninen, "A Case for Justified Non-voluntary Active Euthanasia: Exploring the Ethics of the Groningen Protocol," *Journal of Medical Ethics* 32 (2006), pp. 643-651 doi:10.1136/jme.2005.014845; Alexander A. Kon, "Neonatal Euthanasia is Unsupportable: The Groningen Protocol Should Be Abandoned," *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* 28 (2007), pp. 453-463 doi:10.1007/s11017-007-9047-8; Eduard Verhagen and Peter J.J. Sauer, "The Groningen Protocol—Euthanasia in Severely Ill Newborns," *NEJM* 352.10 (2005), pp. 959-962 doi: 10.1056/NEJMp058026.

Week 5

Monday, February 6

Topic : Physician-Assisted Death in Canada

Reading: tba – readings dependent on pending legislation

Week 6

Monday, February 13

Topic : End-of-Life Decision-Making

Reading: Alister Browne and Bill Sullivan, "Advance Directives in Canada," *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 15 (2006), pp. 256-260

<http://search.proquest.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/201397660?accountid=14771>; J. Robertson, "Second Thoughts on Living Wills," *HCR* 21.6 (1991), pp. 6-9; Helga Kuhse, "Some Reflections on the Problem of Advance Directives, Personhood and Personal Identity," *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* 9 (1999), pp. 347-364

<http://myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/42960358?accountid=14771>.

Week 7

Monday, February 27

Topic: Donation of Vital Organs: Dead Donor Rule and Brain Death

Reading: J. Robertson, "The Dead Donor Rule," *HCR* 29 (1999), pp. 6-14; Norman Fost, "Organs from Anencephalic Infants: An Idea Whose Time Has Not Yet Come," *HCR* 18 (Oct. 1988), pp. 5-10; John Paul II, "Address of the Holy Father John Paul II to the 18th International Congress of the Transplantation Society"

http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2000/jul-sep/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20000829_transplants.html

Week 8

Monday, March 6

Topic : Donation of Vital Organs after Cardiopulmonary Death

Reading: R. Steinbrook, "Organ Donation after Cardiac Death," *NEJM* 357 (2007), pp. 209-213 doi: 10.1056/NEJMp078066; Kevin G. Munjal, et. al., "A Rationale in Support of Uncontrolled Donation After Circulatory Determination of Death," *HCR* 43.1 (2013), pp. 19-26 doi: 10.1002/hast113; Dale Gardiner and Robert Sparrow, "Not Dead Yet: Controlled Non-Heart-Beating Organ Donation, Consent and the Dead Donor Rule," *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 19 (2010), pp. 17-26.

Week 9

Monday, March 13

Topic : Tube Feeding at the End of Life

Reading: Muriel Gillick and Angelo E. Volandes, "The Standard of Caring: Why Do We Still Use Feeding Tubes in Patients With Advanced Dementia?" *Journal of American Medical Directors Association* 9 (2008), pp. 364-367 doi: 10.1016/j-jamda.2008.03.011; S. G. Post, "Tube Feeding and Advanced Progressive Dementia," *HCR* 31(2001), pp. 36-42; John Paul II, "Address of John Paul II to the Participants in the International Congress on 'Life-sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State: Scientific Advances and Ethical Dilemmas'"

http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2004/march/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20040320_congress-fiamc.html

Week 10

Monday, March 20

Topic : Poster Presentations

Reading: N/A

Week 11

Monday, March 27

Topic : Children and End-of-Life Care

Reading: Hollye Harrington Jacobs, "Ethics in Pediatric End-of-Life Care: A Nursing Perspective," *Journal of Pediatric Nursing* 20 (2005), pp. 360-369 doi: 10.1016/j.pedn.2005.04.016; Pamela S. Hinds, et. al., "The Child's Voice in Pediatric Palliative and End-of-Life Care," *Progress in Palliative Care* 20 (2012), pp. 337-342 doi: 10.1179/1743291X12Y0000000035.

Week 12

Monday, April 3

Topic: Poverty and Death

Reading: Jennifer Davis-Berman, "Contributing Cause of Death: Poverty," *Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life and Palliative Care* 9 (2013), pp. 244-246; Tiina Podymow, Jeffrey Turnbull, and Doug Coyle, "Shelter-based Palliative Care for the Homeless Terminally Ill," *Palliative Medicine* 20 (2006), pp. 81-86 <http://dx.doi.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/10.1191/0269216306pm11030> ; Jon Sobrino, "Poverty Means Death to the Poor," *Cross Currents* 36 (1986), pp. 267-276 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24458779>

Exam Week

TBD