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## CS 635 Medical Dilemmas And The Church (A Course In Bioethics)

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# MEDICAL DILEMMAS AND THE CHURCH

## (A COURSE IN BIOETHICS)

CS 635

January 12 - 14 & January 17 - 19, 2000

8:30 - 4:00 (with lunch break)

**James R. Thobaben, Ph.D., M.P.H.**  
**ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

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### PURPOSE:

To prepare students for ministry by training them to analyze and address issues in medical ethics and health care from a Christian perspective. To develop ministers who are responsive to the needs, contexts, and insights of parishioners and members of the larger community who are patients, family members of patients, or practitioners. To enable ministers to equip their congregations for understanding their moral responsibility in decisions about the delivery and receiving of health care and the impact of social decisions in health care on the broader community.

### OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a theological basis for understanding and interpreting health issues.
- To introduce various historical and contemporary Christian interpretations of medical ethics issues.
- To teach the vocabulary of ethical analysis, specifically for medical ethics.
- To introduce approaches to social analysis for use in understanding health care.
- To consider how responses to medical ethics problems shape society.
- To consider how responses to medical ethics problems impact congregational life and pastoral care.

### TEXTS:

#### REQUIRED

Beauchamp & Walters, Contemporary Issues in Bioethics (5<sup>th</sup> edition).

Thobaben, JR "The Impact of Managed Care on the Moral Character of Rehabilitation Institutions"  
Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation 1997; 12(1):10-20. (*on library reserve*)

Thobaben, JR "A United Methodist Approach to End-of-Life Decisions: Intentional Ambiguity or  
Ambiguous Intentions" Christian Bioethics 1997; 3 (3): 222-248. (*on library reserve*)

"Durham Declaration" (*on library reserve*)

#### RECOMMENDED

Lammers & Verhey, On Moral Medicine (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

### EXPECTATIONS:

Written Work: 17 - 18 page term paper. Term paper options #1 & #2 do not require approval of topic; #3 does. Make sure the paper includes a "fair" consideration of all major positions and a clear assertion of the position you hold. The papers should include moral reasoning explicitly intended for the Christian community, as well as arguments that would be coherent in a highly secularized setting. **Do not** focus on counseling issues, but on social and cultural factors and on moral reasoning.

#1 **Is health care a right?**

#2 **Is the use of human stem cells for research and, eventually, treatment morally acceptable?**

#3 **Open topic, but must focus on ethics, not counseling or pastoral care.**

All written work must be typed with 12 point type, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing. Do not include substantial quotes from Scripture; use citations. All references must be noted properly; include page numbers. Follow page limit requirements. Required length of paper does not include reference or title pages. **Papers are due at 1:00 on January 31.** There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse.

All written work must use inclusive language when reference is made to human beings (male and female). This provides for both greater inclusion and greater precision. For more information on this topic see 'Suggestions for Using Inclusive Language', available in the Dean of Student's Office.

Papers are graded anonymously. Each paper should include a title page with the student's name and SPO number. All subsequent pages should include only the SPO number, written in the top right corner.

Final Examination: A one-hour, in-class final. Part of the exam will be an objective examination over concepts in medical ethics and part will be a response to a case study. **The exam will be given on Friday January 21 at 1:00 pm.** As with the papers, the exam will be graded anonymously.

Participation: Students are required to complete all assigned readings. Acknowledgement of completion will be sought the last day of class. Failure to complete readings on time may result in a lowering of the final grade, as will poor attendance for class. Attendance will be taken. The deduction for low participation and/or late or incomplete reading of assigned material will be up to 10% against the final grade (a full letter grade reduction).

**FINAL GRADE:**

Examination	30%	January 21	1:00 pm
Term Paper	70% for term paper	January 31	1:00 pm
Class Participation	Deduction if lacking		
Reading	Deduction if lacking		

Grade Range: Work for CS 635 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.

- A = Unusually high quality, exceptional work*
- A- = Far above average, fine work*
- B+ = Above average for graduate work*
- B = Very good, but average for graduate work*
- B- = Slightly below average for graduate work*
- C+ = Meets requirements, but with noticeable inadequacies for graduate work*
- C = Meets requirements, but with gaps for graduate work*
- C- = Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work*
- D+ = Minimal work, acceptable*
- D = Minimal work, barely acceptable*
- D- = Acceptable, but only with great reservation*
- F = Failure; unacceptable work*

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

- 1/12      **BASIC CONCEPTS IN ETHICS**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            1-32
- BASIC CONCEPTS OF HEALTH**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            33 - 77; 78 - 97  
            RECOMMENDED:        L & V    197 - 222, 242 - 261
- HEALING, HEALTH, AND HOPE: Religion, Health, and Caregiving**  
            RECOMMENDED:        L & V            328 - 335; 356 - 400; 878 - 882  
            VIDEO:                "Mud Creek Clinic"
- 1/13      **VICARIOUS PARENTHOOD?: Alternatives in Reproduction**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            189 - 270; 607 - 694  
   Durham Declaration  
            RECOMMENDED:        L & V    270 - 276; 287-296; 509 - 524; 617 - 638  
            **FIELD TRIP: CENTRAL BAPTIST In Vitro-Fertilization Lab (w/ M. Betero, M.D. & L. Gray, VP)**
- 1/14      **MODELS OF CAREGIVING**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            117 - 148; 164 - 188  
            RECOMMENDED:        L & V    121 - 137  
            **FIELD TRIP: U.K. MEDICAL CENTER (with J. Holsinger, M.D., Chancellor)**
- 1/17      **DECISIONS AND DESPAIR: Competence & Euthanasia**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            149 - 163; 271 - 354  
   Thobaben, JR "A United Methodist Approach to End-of-Life..."  
   Christian Bioethics (3)3:222-248  
            RECOMMENDED:        L & V    666 - 678  
            VIDEO:                "Selling Death"
- 1/18      **THE DISTRIBUTION OF DESIRED THINGS: Managed Care & 'Right' to Care**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            355 - 426  
   Thobaben, JR "The Impact of Managed Care..."  
   Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation (12)1:10-20  
            RECOMMENDED:        L & V    947 - 960
- OTHERNESS?: Brain Injuries, Birth Defects, and Other Awkward Circumstances**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            98 - 116; 511 - 606  
            RECOMMENDED:        L & V    679 - 692; 734 - 747; 826 - 845; 853 - 865  
            VIDEO:                "Billy Broke His Head"
- THIS SESSION WILL CONTINUE ON 1/19*
- 1/19      **GIVING AND GETTING: The Donation of Human Substances & Research (Human & Animal)**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            427 - 510  
            RECOMMENDED:        L & V    903 - 916
- PUBLIC HEALTH**  
            REQUIRED:            B & W            695 - 781
- FINAL THOUGHTS AND NEW CONSIDERATIONS**
- 1/21 1:00 pm      **FINAL EXAMINATION**