BE 5900 Bioethics National Conference Course
Bioethics & the Body
June 25–27, 2020
2-3 Semester Hours

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Course Description

This course will enable students to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the conference, Bioethics & the Body. The conference examines foundational concepts and bioethical considerations related to the myriad ways in which we view, interact with, manipulate, and analyze our physical bodies. Plenary sessions will focus on understanding the human body through a theological lens, disability and issues of identity in a bioethical context, the goals of medicine with respect to disease, pregnancy and prenatal testing, and the biological and technological merging of the human and nonhuman.

Course Learning Objectives

• Identify the prospects and challenges for the evolving landscape of bioethical engagement within the context of shifting global and societal realities and advances in medicine and biotechnology.

• Explore & discuss the ethical implications of recent developments in medicine, science, and technology with respect to our individual and common humanity.

• Evaluate contemporary bioethical discourses in light of ethical approaches that include philosophical, religious, and other perspectives from the medical humanities.

• Promote interdisciplinary engagement on pressing bioethical issues.

Required Texts

• Devan Stahl, Imaging and Imagining Illness: Becoming Whole in a Broken Body (Eugene: Cascade, 2018).

• Brent Waters, This Mortal Flesh: Incarnation and Bioethics (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2009).

3 Credit Hour Participants also must read:

Recommended Reading

- Brent Waters, *From Human to Posthuman: Christian Theology and Technology in a Posthuman World* (Routledge, 2006).

Course Expectations

Students are expected to attend every class session and actively participate in discussion. Student participation is considered vital to the goals of this course. Students are strongly encouraged to complete reading assignments prior to class in order to be prepared for the material. Students will also be expected to turn in written assignments reflecting the guidelines defined in this syllabus and set forth in class and by the assigned deadlines. Failure to turn assignments in on-time will result in a grade reduction at the professor of record’s discretion. Credit students are required to attend the conference plenaries, workshops, and parallel papers as part of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

Founded upon the principles of Scripture and Christian tradition, Trinity Graduate School expects the members of its community to lead lives that are characterized by honesty and integrity. This expectation is equally important in academic matters as well as personal affairs. A policy on academic dishonesty must be understood in this broader context of personal integrity and character.
Definition

Academic dishonesty is not limited to “cheating” in or out of the classroom. It also includes plagiarism and misuse of library and/or academic resources on campus. Plagiarism consists of representing ideas and/or direct written material from other sources as one’s own work. Cheating consists of any dishonest behaviors that afford the student an unfair advantage over other students in course requirements. Misuse of library and other academic materials on campus include the stealing of books and/or articles, abusing books and/or articles, and the removing of academic materials from the library for a temporary period of time without signing the materials out.

Avoiding Plagiarism

Morally considered, plagiarism is a combination of theft and deception. This judgment has as its basis the principle that ideas, facts, and arguments, even sentences and phrases, are “owned” by those who discover or originate them. Moreover, when these entities are copyrighted (as almost all published material are) that ownership is stringently defined and protected by law.

No longer, then, can a person in good conscience or much safety write individual paragraphs and sentences, much less prepare entire papers, simply by finding a reference source addressed to the topic in question and changing its wording. The basic principles of documentation and practice require appropriate attribution to the source and creative use of what others have thought, researched, and written.

Americans with Disabilities Act

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Trinity International University to provide appropriate and reasonable accommodations, or academic adjustments, and services to students with a documented disability to help ensure an equal educational opportunity. Students seeking these services should contact Mary Guthrie, Assistant Dean of Students, at the earliest possible time with supporting documentation. If you believe you might have a disability that negatively impacts your educational performance, but have never been diagnosed, you are encouraged to meet with Mary Guthrie to discuss your needs. You can contact her at mcguthrie@tiu.edu or 847.317.7114.

Learning Assignments/Required

- All reading (unless otherwise noted) will be completed at a level of competency which will allow the reader to interact with concepts at a critical level (note: this may require the reading of materials more than once).

- Reading assigned materials–prior to the first class if possible
  - Mandatory only for academic credit students.
  - Any required readings previously read should be carefully reviewed or advanced substitutes requested from the professor.

- Book review (academic credit students only)
  - All 2 and 3 credit hour students are required to submit a 2-3 page book review of Waters, *This Mortal Flesh*. The review will focus on a critical summary of the book’s content and its implications for bioethics.
• In addition to a review of Waters, all 3 credit hour students are required to submit a 3 page book review of Eisland, *Disabled God*. The review will focus on a critical summary of the book’s content and its implications for bioethics.

• Paper (academic credit students only)
  o All students are required to submit a typewritten research paper related to the conference themes. The paper must discuss either a topic explicitly related to the conference or be cleared in writing with the instructor no later than the last meeting of the class during the conference. The paper must interact in a meaningful way with the assigned reading, additional books as well as trade articles.
  o Papers are to be 12-15 pages with a 10% margin (shorter or longer), double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, and use footnotes or endnotes in a consistent style. (TIU style guide, Turabian, Chicago, or SBL are acceptable formats). Page numbers (not including the cover page and bibliography) should be included.

• Second Paper (3 academic credit students only)
  o Submit a typewritten research paper related to conference themes (see description above).
  o Papers are to be 12-15 pages with a 10% margin (shorter or longer), double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, and use footnotes or endnotes in a consistent style. (TIU style guide, Turabian, Chicago, or SBL are acceptable formats). Page numbers (not including the cover page and bibliography) should be included.

**Assessment & Final Course Grading**

• Papers will be evaluated and graded with respect to the appropriateness of the level of knowledge regarding the topic, the level of research and the development and treatment of the topic, and the form and quality of the written presentation.

• Late papers or those in excess or deficient of the page length will be evaluated more strictly, out of fairness to other students.

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Please email your assignments to the professor by **August 14, 2020** to hmadueme@tiu.edu and “cc” ben.parks@slu.edu.

**Course Calendar**

The conference begins on Thursday, June 25th and continues through Saturday, June 27th. The complete conference schedule is available online at [https://cbhd.org/conf2020/schedule](https://cbhd.org/conf2020/schedule). In addition to attendance at the conference, the following course meetings are required.

**Thursday, June 25, 2020**

4:45 pm Registration *(Student check-in and conference materials will be available upon arrival in the classroom at 4:45 pm.)*
5:00 – 6:00 pm  Conference Course Meeting
7:00 pm  Conference Opening

Friday, June 26, 2020
12:00 –1:20 pm  Conference Course Meeting (*lunch provided, meet at Hawkins Dining Hall*)

Saturday, June 27, 2020
11:30 am –12:50 pm  Conference Course Meeting (*lunch provided meet at Hawkins Dining Hall*)
4:30 pm  Conference Close
Guidelines and Requirements for Bioethics Summer Course Research Papers

Have a clear research question from the start. “How” and “why” questions are important, because they naturally lend themselves to creating an argument. You must make an argument in the paper and not just recite facts or report on what you have read. The argument needs to be more than mere opinion.

A general rule is that you should consult twice the amount of resources as the pages required for the paper. For example, if you are required to write a ten-page paper, you should consult twenty resources. Some of this will fall into background reading, you may not end up including all of these resources in your paper.

It is essential to consult resources outside the required reading for the course. Start by utilizing the suggested reading list provided for the course or the MA Bioethics list on the my.tiu.edu website under bioethics. Move on to reading academic articles and journals. Do not rely on secondary sources and avoid dependence on internet sources unless they are formal reports, news items, or reputable journals. Use primary sources in your research as much as possible. Do not just read about Kant or Aristotle, read their writings directly. Find out what major research studies or seminal works have been done on your topic and access those as well.

Avoid plagiarism by citing all quotes, paraphrases, and ideas that are not originally yours. Trinity’s policy on plagiarism can be found on pgs. 5-6 of the Academic Handbook. Use footnotes or endnotes in a consistent style. TIU style guide, Turabian, Chicago, or SBL are acceptable formats. Consult a manual for whichever style you choose and again, follow that style consistently throughout the paper.

Use direct quotes sparingly. Reserve the use for thoughts that you cannot say as well in your own words. Additionally, any direct quotes should have an explanation unpacking them. When using a quote it is strongly preferred to use the original source where the quote appears to cite it. Shorter quotes should have double quotation marks around them. Longer quotes (50 plus words) need to be block quotes, single-space, and indented from the left margin. Biblical citations should note which translation and be accompanied with appropriate explanation. If the citation is significant to the overall argument, pertinent biblical scholarship (i.e., commentaries/such as Pillar, New International Commentaries, World Biblical Commentaries) should be consulted.

The paper should be written in Times New Roman using 12-point font and double-spaced. Use 1 inch margins on the top, bottom, left, and right sides of the page. Please do not make adjustments to these guidelines.

All papers need to have a cover page. It should include the title of the paper, your name, the course, and the date on which it was submitted. If you utilize a campus mailbox, please include that information to facilitate returning papers.

Make sure the pages are numbered on the bottom. The first page is blank with numbering beginning on page two of the paper (the number two at the bottom). Neither the title page nor your bibliography should be numbered.

Proof-read your paper and have a friend proof-read it as well. A second proofreader will pick up on things that you have missed. Let’s face it you have been staring at this paper for far too long! Do not rely solely on the spell/grammar check.