The Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity
Trinity International University
Deerfield, IL

BE7700 Ethics Committees and Consultants
July 9-12, 2012
3-4 Semester Hours

Robert Orr, MD, CM, Professor of Record
Email: b.j.orr.vt@gmail.com
Lisa Anderson-Shaw, DrPH, MS, MSN
Email: lkas@uic.edu

Course Description

This course is intended for individuals who are involved in, or interested in becoming involved in, ethics committees and ethics consultations within various healthcare settings. Attention will be given to the composition, functions, and policies of ethics committees. The course will emphasize both the study and practice of clinical ethics consultations using committee and subcommittee methods. While a clinical background would be helpful, the course is designed to benefit clinicians and non-clinicians alike.

Institute students will automatically be registered for Reclaiming Dignity in a Culture of Commodification conference July 12 (eve.)-14, 2012 free of charge. Attendance at the conference is required as part of this course. Students may also register for the conference wrap-around course for an additional 2-3 hours credit.

Course Learning Objectives

- Understand the structure and function of ethics committees in hospitals and nursing homes
- Be aware of resources available to ethics committees
- Understand and apply the process of development of institutional policies relevant to clinical ethics
- Learn about the process of consultation in clinical ethics and a format for documentation of the consultation
- Practice the process of ethics consultation in large group, small group, and individual consultant settings

Required Reading:

3 & 4 Credit Hour Students

- Orr RD. Medical Ethics and the Faith Factor. Eerdmans, 2009
- Jonsen, Siegler, and Winslade, Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in clinical medicine, 7th ed; Lange Clinical Science, 2010
4 Credit Hour Students Only (must also read the following text)

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 expected 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. **Academic Integrity:** (see Academic Handbook pg 6). **Credit students are required to attend the conference unless conference attendance is waived by the professor of record.**

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 Institute if possible (Mandatory only for academic credit students).
  - Any required readings previously read should be carefully reviewed or advanced substitutes requested from the professor.

- Papers (academic credit students only)
  - Two Case Reports:
    - One clinical ethics consultation report on a case discussed in small group in class with the writer acting as reporter for a subcommittee consultation
    - One clinical ethics consultation report on a case assigned in class, with the writer acting as an individual ethics consultant
    - Case reports are to be ready to be placed in the patient’s chart. Each report should be 2 pages, single spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins.
  - One hospital policy on an approved topic, 5-10 pages double-spaced.

- Additional Paper (4 hour academic credit students only)
  - Choose a controversial topic in clinical ethics (topic must be approved by professor) and write a 15 page paper (double-spaced, 12 pt. font) from a Christian perspective, including discussion of at least one alternative perspective. Include a minimum of 6 references in addition to the assigned readings. (TIU style guide, Turabian, Chicago, or SBL are acceptable formats). Page numbers (not including the coverpage) should be included.
Papers and projects must be submitted by email. Emailed papers and projects must be received by midnight, August 30, 2012. If a student desires substantive remarks on assignments, they must turn the assignment in by August 20, 2012. Email to: b.j.orr.vt@gmail.com

Contact information:

Dr. Robert Orr  
92 Northshore Drive  
Burlington, VT  05408

Assessment & Final Course Grading

- Papers will be graded with respect to organization, quality of composition, depth of research, and, demonstrated competency with respect to the issues at hand.

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

3 Credit Hours

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4 Credit Hours

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Tentative Course Calendar

Monday, July 9

8:30-9:00 a.m. Optional informal reception (food served) with Institute Directors

9:00-11:30 a.m. Ethics Committees - Lisa Anderson-Shaw, DrPH

1:00-3:30 p.m. Ethics Policy - Lisa Anderson-Shaw, DrPH

4:00-5:30 p.m. Hans Madueme, MD, PhD (Cand.) – *The Use of Scripture in Christian Bioethics: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

Tuesday, July 10

9:00-11:30 a.m. Ethics Education - Robert Orr, MD

1:00-3:30 p.m. Ethics Consultation by Committee (process and format) - Robert Orr, MD
Wednesday, July 11

9:00-11:30 p.m.  Ethics Consultation by Subcommittee - Robert Orr, MD & Lisa Anderson-Shaw, DrPH

1:00-3:30 p.m.  Ethics Consultation by Subcommittee - Robert Orr, MD & Lisa Anderson-Shaw, DrPH

4:00-5:30 p.m.  Michael Mayo, JD

6:00-7:30 p.m.  Jeanne Monahan, MA

Thursday, July 12

9:00-11:00 a.m.  Ethics Consultation by Individual Consultant - Robert Orr, MD

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  Conclusion & wrap up.

7:00 p.m.  *Reclaiming Dignity* Conference begins [Attendance is required at all plenary sessions]

Friday, July 13  

*Reclaiming Dignity* Conference

Saturday, July 14  

*Reclaiming Dignity* Conference
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 TIU website (https://portal.tiu.edu/files/uportal/tgs/Reading_list_TGS-BE_7-19-11.DOC). 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 pg. 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 on the left margin. Follow the spacing rules for the indentation stated in the style guide you choose. Biblical citations should note which translation and be accompanied with appropriate explanation. If the citation is significant to the overall argument, pertinent biblical scholarship (ie, 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.