This course will enable students to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Conference, *Reclaiming Dignity in a Culture of Commodification*. Human dignity, once a cornerstone for bioethics, is increasingly obscured by a contemporary culture of commodification. Myopic fixation on sexuality, fertility, and reproduction reduces the female body to a resource for medical exploitation and reproductive tourism. Procreation is being engulfed by the reproductive imperative and the child of choice. Without neglecting the ongoing emphases on beginning- and end-of-life issues, our task must include attention to prenatal discrimination, the neglect of the girl child, worldwide disparities in women’s healthcare and maternal mortality, and the objectification and exploitation of the female body. Responsible Christian bioethics embraces her dignity as essential to her community and foundational to our common humanity. This conference will explore important ethical considerations surrounding developments in reproductive practices and global women’s health through the lens of reclaiming dignity in a culture of commodification.

**Course Learning Objectives**

- Understand the significant ways in which the dignity of women has been commodified in the different cultures of late modernity.
- Assess different proposals that have been offered, by Christians and non-Christians, to address the problem of commodifying women’s dignity.
- Explain how Christian bioethics can effectively address the commodification of women, drawing on the theological, philosophical, and social resources of the Christian tradition.

**Required Texts**

If any required readings have been previously read, select equivalent length substitutes from the TGS Bioethics Reading List posted online in the Bioethics section of MyTrinity or a suitable replacement in consultation with the professor of record.

- *Human Dignity and Bioethics: Essays Commissioned by the President’s Council on Bioethics* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2009).
3 Credit Hour Participants also must read:


**OR**


**Recommended Reading**

- Susan Dewey, *Hollow Bodies: Institutional Responses to Sex Trafficking in Armenia, Bosnia and India* (Kumarian Press, 2008).
- Francesca Molfino and Flavia Zucco, eds., *Women in Biotechnology: Creating Interfaces* (Springer, 2010 [Hardcover, 2008]).
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 Dishonesty: (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 class if possible
  - Mandatory only for academic credit students.
o Any required readings previously read should be carefully reviewed or advanced substitutes requested from the professor.

- **Book review (academic credit students only)**

- **Paper (academic credit students only)**
  - 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.
  - Papers are to be 10-12 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 coverpage and bibliography) should be included.

- **Second Paper (3 academic credit students only)**
  - Submit a typewritten research paper related to one of the conference themes—one of two options are available for this paper: student papers can **either** 1) interact with one or more feminist perspectives in bioethics (e.g., see entries with asterix under recommended reading); pay special attention to themes and emphases in feminist perspectives that we can learn from as well as those that we should be critical of; or 2) present a Christian interpretative essay interacting meaningfully and critically with the additional reading: Dickenson or UN Commission. Highest grades will be given to students that have thoroughly digested several chapters in this book and then engaged them insightfully from the perspective of Christian bioethics.
  - Papers are to be 10-12 pages with a 10% margin (shorter or longer) and proportionately fewer resources, 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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Papers must be submitted by mail. Mailed assignments must be received by **August 31, 2012**, and sent with a self-addressed stamped 8 x 11 envelope for returning them (or else identifying a TIU campus box number on the cover page). **Do not email your assignments to the professor.** If a student desires substantive remarks on assignments, they must turn the assignment in by **August 20, 2012**. Mail to:

Ferdinand Yates class assignments:
Ferdinand D. Yates, Jr., MD  
Neighborhood Health Center  
155 Lawn Avenue,  
Buffalo, NY 14207

**Course Calendar**

**Thursday, July 12, 2012**

5:30-7:00 pm  Registration (Student check-in and conference materials will be available upon arrival at the classroom at 4:45 pm)

4:45-6:00 pm  Conference Course Meeting

7:00-7:30  Conference Start  *Framing the Discussion*  
Michael J. Sleasman, PhD

7:30-8:30  Plenary  *Reclaiming Her Dignity: From Commodification to Community*  
Paige Comstock Cunningham, JD

**Friday, July 13, 2012**

8:00-8:30 am  Prayer

9:00-10:00  Plenary  *Dignity Lost, Dignity Regained: Theological Abundance For Global Bioethics*  
Pia de Solenni, SThD

10:00-10:30  Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm  Workshops

11:30 am – 1:30 pm  Lunch and Informal Networking

11:45 am - 1:30 pm  **Conference Course Meeting** (a box lunch will be provided in the classroom)

1:30-2:00  Parallel Papers I

PLEASE NOTE: All those seeking and registered for CE credit for physicians MUST attend parallel paper sessions presented by physicians.
2:10-2:40  Parallel Papers II
PLEASE NOTE: All those seeking and registered for CE credit for physicians MUST attend parallel paper sessions presented by physicians.

2:40-3:00  Break

3:00-4:00  Plenary                     Women's Health and the Health of Family, Community, and Society: Cause or Effect?
                         Monique Chireau, MD

5:30 – 10:00  Evening at Ravinia – for more information and to purchase a ticket please visit the conference website www.cbhd.org/conf2012.

Saturday, July 14, 2012

8:30-9:00 am  Prayer

9:00-10:00  Plenary –                    Women Alone: Feminism’s False Promise and the Decline of Dignity
                         Charmaine Yoest, PhD

10:30 am – 12:00 pm  Workshops

11:30am –1:30 pm  Lunch and Informal Networking

11:45am- 1:30 pm  Conference Course Meeting (a box lunch will be provided in the classroom)

1:30-2:00  Parallel Papers I
PLEASE NOTE: All those seeking and registered for CE credit for physicians MUST attend parallel paper sessions presented by physicians.

2:10-2:40  Parallel Papers II
PLEASE NOTE: All those seeking and registered for CE credit for physicians MUST attend parallel paper sessions presented by physicians.

2:40-3:00  Break

3:00-4:00  Plenary                     Commodifying Women’s Bodies: Some Goods are Not for Sale
                         C. Ben Mitchell, PhD

4:00-4:30  Close                      Reframing the Discussion
                         Michael J. Sleasman, PhD
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/uporaltgs/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 using12 point font and double-spaced. Use 1inch 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.