

Revised February 8, 2008

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3 hrs. undergraduate credit available

# Introduction to Bioethics PH/BIO 474X

C. Ben Mitchell, Ph.D., Institute Director

The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity  
Bannockburn, IL USA  
March 3-6, 2008

## Description

This introductory course (cross-listed with the Intensive Institute) provides an orientation to the diverse and challenging field of bioethics. An array of leading Christian figures in bioethics compare Christian and non-Christian perspectives on a broad range of current topics. The course is designed for undergraduates interested in becoming physicians, nurses, physician assistants, chaplains, congregation-based clergy, lawyers, public policy makers, social workers, educators, scientists, and others who want a better grasp of the bioethics field than can be provided in typical conferences. Participants will earn a certificate of completion. The course can be taken for 3 semester hours of undergraduate-level academic credit, in which cases special requirements outlined below apply. Institute students will automatically be registered for the *Extending Life: Setting the Agenda for the Ethics of Aging, Death, and Immortality* conference (March 6 [eve.] - 8, 2008) free of charge. Students may also register for the conference wrap-around course for an additional 2-3 hours credit.

## Objectives

1. To develop biblical-Christian perspectives on a broad range of current topics in bioethics.
2. To compare such perspectives with non-Christian perspectives that are particularly influential today.
3. To dialogue personally with a variety of Christian leaders and students in the field of bioethics.
4. To develop a more in-depth understanding of a particular topic in bioethics, comparing biblical-Christian and other perspectives. (For academic credit students only)

## Lecturers

William P. Cheshire, M.D, Mayo Clinic

Aubrey de Grey, Ph.D., University of Cambridge, UK (Special Debate Guest)

C. Ben Mitchell, Ph.D., The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity

Robert Orr, M.D., University of Vermont

S. Jay Olshansky, Ph.D., University of Illinois Chicago (Special Debate Guest)

Joyce Shelton, Ph.D., Trinity International University

Schedule (*Credit students have additional time with professors – see Requirements*)

Monday, March 3

- 9:00-11:30 a.m. D. Joy Riley, M.D., *The Genesis & History Of Bioethics*
- 1:00-3:30 p.m. D. Joy Riley, M.D., *Classical Theories In Bioethics*
- 4:00-5:30 p.m. William P. Cheshire, M.D, *Case Studies*

Tuesday, March 4

- 9:00-11:30 a.m. Joyce A. Shelton, Ph.D., *Beginning of Life Issues*
- 1:00-3:30 p.m. Joyce Shelton, Ph.D., *Reproductive Technologies*
- 4:00-5:30 p.m. Robert Orr, M.D., *Case Study*

Wednesday, March 5

- 9:00-11:30 a.m. Robert Orr, M.D., *Withholding & Withdrawal of Treatment*
- 1:00-3:30 p.m. Robert Orr, M.D., *Assisted Suicide & Euthanasia*
- 4:00- 5:30 p.m. William P. Cheshire, M.D, *Case Studies*

Thursday, March 6

- 9:00-11:30 a.m. Joyce A. Shelton, Ph.D. & C. Ben Mitchell, Ph.D.  
*Genetic Intervention*
- 11:45 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. C. Ben Mitchell, Ph.D., *Conclusion*
- 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. S. Jay Olshansky, Ph.D. & Aubrey de Grey, Ph.D.  
Debate: *Do You Want to Live Forever?*

Friday, March 7

*Extending Life* Conference

Saturday, March 8

*Extending Life* Conference

## Reading

Reading the following materials is required of academic credit students and recommended for others. You are welcome to read them in libraries or to obtain your own new or used copies. The books selected will be useful well beyond this Institute. They contain helpful reference material, and much of the reading not assigned here will be assigned in the Advanced Bioethics Institute, which graduates of the Intensive Bioethics Institute are eligible to take. Books are available via the Trinity Bookstore by calling toll-free 800-456-7323.

1. Kilner, J.F. and Mitchell, C. B. *Does God Need Our Help? Cloning, Assisted Suicide, and other Challenges in Bioethics* Tyndale, 2003 (Basic Background)
2. Munson, Ronald, *Intervention and Reflection: Basic Issues in Medical Ethics*, 8th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2008. Read Chapter 2 and Part V; familiarize yourself with the rest of the text. You may use the 7<sup>th</sup> edition if you wish.
3. Bachiochi, Erika (ed.). *The Cost of "Choice" : Women Evaluate the Impact of Abortion*. San Francisco, CA: Encounter Books, 2004. Read chapters 5, 7-11.
4. Colson, Charles W., and Nigel M. de S. Cameron (eds.). *Human Dignity in the Biotech Century*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2004.
5. Kilner, John F., *Life on the Line*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992.
6. BioBasics Series: Booklets: *Suicide and Euthanasia*, GP Stewart et al.; *End of Life Decisions*, G.P. Stewart et al.; *Genetics, Stem Cell Research and Cloning*, L.K. Bevington et al., *Health Care*, Donal O' Mathuna et al.; and *Sexuality and Reproductive Technology*, G.P Stewart et al. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel.

In addition to the required materials listed above, several Center books (published by Eerdmans) are recommended sources for optional additional reading: *Bioethics and the Future of Medicine*, *Dignity and Dying*, *Genetic Ethics*, *The Changing Face of Health Care*, *The Reproduction Revolution*, and *Aging, Death, and the Quest for Immortality*

## Requirements

1. Participating in Institute sessions (all participants)
  - a. Attendance at all sessions of the Institute.
  - b. Involvement in discussions through questions, criticisms, and comments.
2. Reading assigned materials - prior to the Institute if possible
  - a. Mandatory only for academic credit students.
  - b. Any required readings previously read should be carefully reviewed.
3. Submitting written materials at the first session on Wednesday March 5, 2008.

- a. A brief paragraph describing the topic(s) in bioethics that the participant proposes to research for the post-Institute paper(s)/project (academic credit students only) and indicating which perspectives will be addressed.
  - b. After reviewing these proposals, Dr. Mitchell will provide guidance where needed to assist participants in refining them. An extended lunch period each day is provided to enable credit students to interact with professors concerning their papers.
4. Writing a paper (academic credit students only)
- a. Explain the significance of the bioethical topic selected, develop a biblical-Christian perspective on it, and contrast that perspective with at least one alternative perspective on the topic. Other formats for this paper may be proposed in the paragraph submitted at the beginning of the Institute, but Dr. Mitchell must approve them.
  - b. Papers are to be typed, 3,000-3,500 words long, double spaced, plus notes and bibliography referencing at least three sources in addition to some of the assigned readings. Word count must appear at the end of the paper.
  - c. Submit with the paper a list of required reading/reviewing completed for the course.
6. Mail hard copies of all papers and projects postmarked by May 2, 2008, together with a self-addressed stamped envelope for returning them (or else identifying a TIU campus box number on the cover page), to:

C. Ben Mitchell  
Trinity International University  
Deerfield, IL 60015 USA  
E-mail: [bmitchel@tiu.edu](mailto:bmitchel@tiu.edu)  
Phone: 847-317-8022

**Grading** (academic credit students only)

1. The post-course paper will serve as the basis for the course grade.
2. Late papers will be evaluated more strictly, in proportion to their degree of lateness, out of fairness to other students.
3. In exceptional cases, grades may be adjusted as much as a full letter grade if the quality and/or timeliness of the student's other course work (e.g., paper proposals and reading report) differs significantly from that of the paper(s)/project.