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**CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU**  
**Religious Studies**

**RE 330<sup>50</sup> Biomedical Ethics**  
**Pearl Harbor**

**Spring, 1999**  
**Friday evening, 4:45 pm**

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**Catalog Description:** Examines Christian perspectives on ethical issues in the fields of biology, medicine, and the life sciences. The goals are to assist students to develop an understanding of the personal and social dimensions of these ethical perspectives, develop methods for dealing with relevant ethical issues, and the historical commitment of the Christian communities' reflections and moral teachings in this area. (3 credits)

**Amplification:** Beyond the Christian perspectives, course outline will be adjusted to include the ecumenical or interreligious components critical to the authentic study of basic ethical principles.

**Correlation:** Upper division ethics classes are taught currently in Business and Criminal Justice. Within each class there would be some majors from the designated field, but each class is presented so that any student could learn basic principles. The fundamental premise is for each student to be exposed to applied ethics. This Biomedical Ethics course which deals with contemporary issues in society, does not require advanced knowledge of science or medicine.

**Resource Material:** Material will be distributed in class, films will be shown and others can be borrowed from the Sullivan Library or a commercial source, the Internet will be amply used and contemporary issues can be drawn from the print or video media.

**Expectations:** Because there is no purchased text book, students can expect modest expense from making photocopies, movie rental, etc., not to exceed \$10.00. Students are expected to have access to the Internet, available through the Chaminade Computer Center, or on anyone's personal computer. Students should have access to a VCR either from their home, a friend, or the library.

**Attendance:** To honor the policies of the university, the Registrar must be notified if a student misses two consecutive classes. To obviate this, you should call and leave a message on either of the phone numbers listed above, preferably before class. Should circumstances prevent this information being transmitted before class, then call yourself, or have someone else leave a message the following day. Attendance is taken during each class.

**RE 330 BIOMEDICAL ETHICS  
SPEING EVENING SESSION, 1999  
PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE**

There are six major divisions of the course which can be pursued :

- 1) Issues surrounding the relationship between the health professional and the patient: autonomy, paternalism, current medical models, informed consent and the conflicting roles flowing from economics, triage, and interpersonal familial or professional imperatives.
- 2) Definitions surrounding death, the persistent vegetative state, the right to refuse treatment, advance directives, medical futility and the "right to die" scenarios, both in and out of the press.
- 3) Imperatives surrounding abortion, prenatal diagnosis, maternal-fetal complications, genetic data and conflicts and the role of the government.
- 4) Information surrounding the current research in reproductive technologies, new procedures, surrogate motherhood, issues in human genetic research and accomplishment, cloning and the ethics of genetic counseling.
- 5) Challenges surrounding experimental procedures on humans and/or animals, the ethics of clinical trials, the "use" of persons in new drug testing, and "The Legacy of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study."
- 6) Moral issues surrounding allocation of resources, social justice, health policy, the competing frameworks of health care reform, the distribution of treatments by age, need, wealth and decisions of rationing, organ donation and allocation, the complications of alcoholism or other chronic abusive patterns prior to the medical intervention.

These topics flow from the material in the text. Following the first class, decisions will be made which topics will be covered by the students (each one's choice) and which material will be addressed in the lecture part of each class. Once that discussion has occurred, a finalized course outline will be distributed and each student can fill in his/her own calendar according to expectations.

**RE 330 BIOMEDICAL ETHICS**  
**SPRING EVENING SESSION, 1999**  
**PRELIMINARY COMMENTS CONCERNING CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT**

**Classroom:** Designation of the classroom at Pearl Harbor is determined by class size.

**Distributed Material:** Should you be absent, make arrangements to get the material before the next class meeting. Should you wish to distribute something to the rest of the class during the time of your presentation, you are responsible for the copying which can be done off campus.

**Course and Instructor Evaluation:** In mid-semester, we will conduct an informal evaluation in which you can make an appraisal of the class for the benefit of the instructor. The instructor can also make an appraisal of the students. This will be discussed.

For your information, there are nine items to be addressed at the end of the class which your instructor takes very seriously.

- 1) Stating the requirements of the class
- 2) Using class time productively
- 3) Being well prepared for each class
- 4) Challenging students academically
- 5) Demonstrating to you that I know the subject matter
- 6) Maintaining high teaching standards
- 7) Giving you sufficient material within the class
- 8) Making the class experience worthwhile for you
- 9) Meriting your recommendation of the class for others when appropriate

You might give some thought to a similar list for yourselves. This will also be discussed.

**Student Expectations:** Once the course material has been described, we will adjust the syllabus for content, then discuss the ways in which the students will engage the material. The discipline of a four hour class once a week for ten weeks requires a careful methodology that demonstrates **variety** (not all lecture), **preparation** (student reports must be timely), and **consistency** (being on time each time is crucial). These details will be clarified during the first session.

**Student Reports:** Each student, singly or with others, will present material at a pre-determined class. This structure will be determined by a) the number of students in the group, b) the topics each one has chosen and c) the time available.