



INSTITUTE OF
CATHOLIC
CULTURE

CATHOLIC BIOETHICS

REV. THOMAS DAVIS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Modern society is staggering through epochal change. Technological development and its accelerating pace offer unprecedented opportunity and exceptional risk. The biological and technological revolutions of the last century have opened a new field of moral inquiry and study appropriately called bioethics. This course offers a comprehensive review of the teachings of the Catholic Church regarding the sanctity and dignity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Topics include the most challenging and difficult moral and medical issues in the field of contemporary bioethics including abortion, contraception, technological and assisted reproduction, euthanasia, assisted suicide, end-of-life health care, advance medical directives and living wills, proxy decision making, genetic therapy, marriage and sexual ethics, gender theory, same-sex attraction, clinical research, experimentation on human subjects, determination of death, anatomical gifts, transhumanism, legislative and regulatory mandates in related fields, and the development of U.S. Supreme Court case law impacting bioethical issues and religious liberty.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Readings will be assigned for each week. The student is expected to read these texts carefully before each class. Supplemental reading will also be recommended for further study, drawing on primary source church teaching documents, cultural expression, jurisprudential case law, independent scholarship, and popular literature.

REQUIRED TEXT:

- ✓ William E. May, *Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life, Third Edition* (Our Sunday Visitor, 2013)
- ✓ Additional readings will be provided.

**COURSE SCHEDULE (Assigned Readings TBD):**

Lesson	Date	Topic
1	May 16	Overview: The Major Issues
2	May 23	Foundations, General Principles, & Moral Decision Making
N/A	May 30	No Class
3	June 6	Abortion & Embryocide
4	June 13	Technological Reproduction
5	June 20	Contraception & Sterilization
6	June 27	Emergency Contraception & Rape
N/A	July 4	No Class
7	July 11	Stem Cell Research
8	July 18	End of Life Health Care: Euthanasia, Suicide, and Assisted Suicide
9	July 25	The Special Case of PVS; Case Study: <i>The Case of Jane</i>
10	Aug. 1	Sexuality & Sexual Expression
11	Aug. 8	Same-Sex Attraction, Gender Ideology, Puberty Manipulation
N/A	Aug. 15	No Class
12	Aug. 22	Vaccines & Immunizations
13	Aug. 29	Emotional Disorders: Diagnosis, Pharmacology, & Management
N/A	Sept. 5	No Class
14	Sept. 12	Genetic Medicine, CRISPR, Human Enhancement, Transhumanism
15	Sept. 19	Defining Death and its Challenges: Brain Death & Anatomical Gift
16	Sept. 26	Advance Medical Directives, Proxies, & Living Wills
17	Oct. 3	Bioethics & Law: Constitutional Foundations
18	Oct. 10	Case Law: Bodily Integrity, Privacy and Sexual Intimacy, Mandates & SOGI Laws
19	Oct. 17	Religious Liberty, Legal Mandates in Health Care & SOGI Ordinances