

**BIOETHICS**  
**Loyola School of Theology**

First Semester 2004

*James T. Bretzke, S.J., S.T.D.*

*Visiting Professor of Moral Theology: Loyola School of Theology*

Associate Professor of Moral Theology, University of San Francisco

E-mail: [bretzkesj@usfca.edu](mailto:bretzkesj@usfca.edu)

USF Web-page: <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/USFWebIndex.htm>

(The Web-Page contains the Course Syllabus, Power Point Presentations, the Research Bibliographies, some Readings, and other materials)

***Course Description***

This course builds on the introduction to Roman Catholic fundamental moral theology, and considers both the main principles as well as contemporary debates and applications of bioethics. The principal topics addressed will include health care ethics, end of life issues, reproductive ethical issues, HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention issues, and genetic engineering and research issues. The course format will include lecture, questions and discussion, as well as occasional *Power Point* and web-based presentations.

***Course Assignments and Grading***

The students will be asked to do *two (2) case studies*, and *one (1) brief written paper on a disputed question in bioethics (status quaestionis)*. Each case study will be a *maximum* of five (5) typed pages, (double-spaced, 12 point font, with 1" margins), and the case study should detail the principal moral issues and principles involved, as well as an outline of a proposed pastoral response to the case treated. Examples of the case studies will be provided in class well before each exam in the form of an in-class "dry run" sample exercise prior to the mid-term. The *final written paper* will be a c. 5-8 page paper which details the *status quaestionis* ["state of the question"] of a current issue or contested point in bioethics, and which seeks to elucidate the area(s) of debate, the principal arguments involved, and an evaluation of the various positions. This paper will be due the final week of class. ***Grading*** will be based on careful *preparation* of the assigned readings, class *attendance*, active *participation* and class *discussion*, and the various *written assignments*. The *preferred* method for submission of written assignments is electronic, either via e-mail or by diskette. ***Please use the following file-naming protocol for electronic submission of assignments: Your Family Name+Given Name+Assignment Name. Thus, a student named Ted Arroyo would submit his assignments in this way: First Case Study: ArroyoTedCase1; Second Case Study: ArroyoTedCase2; Status Quaestionis Final Paper: ArroyoTedStatusQuaestionis.***

***Course Readings***

AA.VV. "Care for Patients in a 'Permanent' Vegetative State." *Origins* 33:43 (8 April 2004): 737; 739-752.

Bretzke, James T., S.J. *Bioethics Bibliography*. [For further research and/or consultation] <http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/BioethicsBibliography.pdf>

\_\_\_\_\_. "A Burden of Means: An Overlooked Aspect of the Terri Schiavo PVS Debate." Paper Presented to the Pacific Section of the Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting.

University of the Pacific, San Francisco Campus. 13 February 2004.  
<http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/BurdenOfMeans.pdf>

\_\_\_\_\_. *Consecrated Phrases: A Latin Dictionary of Theological Terms*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Collegeville: Liturgical Press: 1998, 2003. (*Reference work*)

\_\_\_\_\_. *A Morally Complex World: Engaging Contemporary Moral Theology*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004. [*selections*]

For Study Questions for A Morally Complex World see the following URLs:  
<http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/MoralComplexQuestions.pdf> [PDF Version]  
<http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/MoralComplexQuestions.htm> [HTML Version]

\_\_\_\_\_. *Sexual Ethics Bibliography: [for further research and/or consultation]*  
<http://www.usfca.edu/fac-staff/bretzkesj/SexualEthicsBibliography.pdf>

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. "What is the Nature of the Unity of Sex, Love and Procreation? A Response to Elio Sgreccia." In *Gift of Life: Catholic Scholars Respond to the Vatican Instruction*, 137-148. Edited by Edmund D. Pellegrino, John Collins Harvey and John P. Langan. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. *Catechism for Filipino Catholics*. Manila: ECCCE Word & Life Publications, 1997. [*selections*]

Coleman, Gerald, S.S. "Take and Eat: Morality and Medically Assisted Feeding." *America* (3 April 2004): 16-20. Essentially the same article as "Moral Questions of Nutrition and Hydration." *Catholic San Francisco* (12 December 2003). Internet archive version found January 29, 2004 at <http://catholic-sf.org/121203.html>

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith [CDF]. *Donum vitae* (Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation). 22 February 1987. AAS 80 (1988): 70-102; *Origins* 16 (19 March 1987): 697-; 699-711.  
[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_19870222\\_respect-for-human-life\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19870222_respect-for-human-life_en.html)

Finley, Mitch. "The Dark Side of Natural Family Planning." *America* 23 February 1991: 206-207.

Fuller, Jon D., S.J., and Keenan, James F. "Tolerant Signals: The Vatican's New Insights on Condoms for H.I.V. Prevention." *America* 183 (23 September 2000): 6-7.

Gallagher, Raphael, C.Ss.R. "Catholic Medical Ethics: A Tradition Which Progresses." In *Catholic Ethicists and HIV/AIDS Prevention*, 271-281. Edited by James F. Keenan, S.J., Jon Fuller, S.J., Lisa Sowle Cahill, and Kevin Kelly. New York: Continuum, 2000.

- Harvey, John Collins. "Introduction to the Biological and Medical Aspects of In Vitro Fertilization." In *In Gift of Life: Catholic Scholars Respond to the Vatican Instruction*, 45-51. Edited by Edmund D. Pellegrino, John Collins Harvey and John P. Langan. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.
- John Paul II, Pope. Address of John Paul II to the Participants in the International Congress on "Life-sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State: Scientific Advances and Ethical Dilemmas." (20 March 2004). *Origins* 33:43 (8 April 2004): 737-740. Internet version found April 3, 2004 at the following URL:  
[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/speeches/2004/march/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_20040320\\_congress-fiamc\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/speeches/2004/march/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20040320_congress-fiamc_en.html)
- John Paul II, Pope. *Evangelium vitae*. Encyclical Letter on the Gospel of Life. (*Selections*)  
[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25031995\\_evangelium-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html)
- Kelly, Kevin. "Conclusion: A Moral Theologian Faces the New Millennium in a Time of AIDS." In *Catholic Ethicists and HIV/AIDS Prevention*, 324-332. Edited by James F. Keenan, S.J., Jon Fuller, S.J., Lisa Sowle Cahill, and Kevin Kelly. New York: Continuum, 2000.
- Kopfensteiner, Thomas R. "Protecting a Dignified Death: A Contemporary Challenge for Moral Reasoning." *New Theology Review* 6 (November 1993): 6-27.
- McCormick, Richard A., S.J. "Ethics and Genetic Research." In *Method and Catholic Moral Theology: The Ongoing Reconstruction*, 260-274. Edited by Todd A. Salzman. Omaha: Creighton University Press, 1999.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "'Moral Considerations' Ill Considered." *America* 166 (14 March 1992): 210-214.
- Also found as Chapter 19 in McCormick's *Corrective Vision: Explorations in Moral Theology*, 225-232. Kansas City: Sheed & Ward, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Who or What Is the Pre-Embryo?" Chapter 14 in Id. *Corrective Vision: Explorations in Moral Theology*, 176-188. Kansas City: Sheed & Ward, 1994.
- Ryan, Maura. "Beyond a Western Bioethics?" *Theological Studies* 65 (March 2004): 158-177.
- Sgreccia, Msgr. Elio. "Moral Theology and Artificial Procreation in Light of *Donum Vitae*." In *Gift of Life: Catholic Scholars Respond to the Vatican Instruction*, 115-135. Edited by Edmund D. Pellegrino, John Collins Harvey and John P. Langan. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1990.

U.S. Catholic Bishops. "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services." *Origins* 31 (19 July 2001): 153; 155-168.

Wildes, Kevin W., S.J. "Ordinary and Extraordinary Means and the Quality of Life." *Theological Studies* 57 (1996): 500-512.

## **SYLLABUS OF WEEKLY READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Week 1**      *Introduction, Methodology, and Introduction to Basic Concepts*

**Required Reading for First Week of June 14<sup>th</sup>:**

Bretzke, *A Morally Complex World*, Chs. 1,2,4,

**Recommended Reading for Week of June 14<sup>th</sup>:**

Bretzke, *A Morally Complex World*, Chs. 3

**Week 2**      *Theology and Basic Concepts in Health Care Ethics*

**Required Readings for Week of June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Bretzke, *A Morally Complex World*, Ch. 6

John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*. #13-17; 64-68; 73-74; 89-91; 99

**Sample Case Study Done Together in Class**

**Week 3**      *Health Care Directives*

**Required Readings for Week of June 28<sup>th</sup>**

U.S. Catholic Bishops. "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services."

Wildes, "Ordinary and Extraordinary Means and the Quality of Life."

**FIRST CASE STUDY DUE**

*(Use suggested file name protocol: FamilyName+GivenName+Case1)*

**Week 4**      *End of Life Issues and Debates*

**Required Readings for Week of July 5<sup>th</sup>**

AA.VV. "Care for Patients in a 'Permanent' Vegetative State." *Origins* 33:43 (8 April 2004)

Bretzke, "A Burden of Means: An Overlooked Aspect of the Terri Schiavo PVS Debate."

*Catechism for Filipino Catholics*, #732, 1038-1039

Coleman, "Take and Eat: Morality and Medically Assisted Feeding."

John Paul II, Address to the Congress on "Life-sustaining Treatments and Vegetative State" (is both available online and in the *Origins* dossier of articles for this week.

Kopfensteiner, "Protecting a Dignified Death"

McCormick, "'Moral Considerations' Ill Considered."

**Week 5**      *Reproductive Issues in Bioethics*

**Required Readings for Week of July 12<sup>th</sup>**

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. "What is the Nature of the Unity of Sex, Love and Procreation?"

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. *Donum vitae*

Finley, "The Dark Side of Natural Family Planning."  
McCormick, "Who or What Is the Pre-Embryo?"  
Harvey, "Introduction to Biological and Medical Aspects of In Vitro Fertilization"  
Sgreccia, "Moral Theology and Artificial Procreation in Light of *Donum Vitae*"

**SECOND CASE STUDY DUE**

*(Use suggested file name protocol: FamilyName+Case2)*

**Week 6      *Issues Related to HIV and AIDS Treatment and Prevention***

**Required Readings for Week of July 19<sup>th</sup>**

Fuller & Keenan, "Tolerant Signals: The Vatican's New Insights on Condoms for H.I.V. Prevention." Kelly, "Conclusion: A Moral Theologian Faces the New Millennium."

**Week 7      *Liminal Questions in Bioethics***

**Required Readings for Week of July 26<sup>th</sup>**

Bretzke, *A Morally Complex World*, Ch. 5,7  
Gallagher, "Catholic Medical Ethics: A Tradition Which Progresses."  
McCormick, "Ethics and Genetic Research"  
Ryan, "Beyond a Western Bioethics?"

*Sample "Status Quaestionis" Done in Class*

**Week 8      *Final Review and Evaluation of Themes in Bioethics***

**STATUS QUAESTIONIS PAPER DUE ON AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup>**

*(Use suggested file name protocol: FamilyName+StatusQuaestionis)*

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