

# MTH 514 - Medical Ethics

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Spring Semester 2019

2 Credit Hours

Room 139C

Thursday afternoons: 1:00 – 2:45

## **Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, PhD**

Director of Education, National Catholic Bioethics Center

Director, National Catholic Certification Program in Health Care Ethics

### ***Course Description and Objectives***

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the subject of biomedical ethics within the context of Roman Catholic theology and teaching. The course objectives are to prepare the student with: (1) a familiar knowledge and an understanding of the bioethical magisterium regarding many of the major medical-ethical issues affecting the ministry of priests; (2) specific knowledge of select bioethical life issues commonly faced in the context of the ministry of parish priests, hospital chaplains, and ethics committees; (3) firm knowledge of pastoral principles for the resolution of difficult questions. The material is presented through power-point-aided lectures, student research, class presentations and class participation.

The Medical Ethics course also seeks to instill the following:

- Knowledge of the role of Christians in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.
- Knowledge of the development of the Church's tradition regarding certain medical-moral issues and knowledge of the current state of the authentic Catholic bioethical magisterium.
- Knowledge of the benefits and risks of specific technologies used in the care patients that a pastor commonly faces in the context of parish ministry.
- Development of skills needed for the resolution of difficult ethics questions in a pluralistic context through pastoral application of authentic moral principles found in the Catholic moral tradition.
- Confirmation of a proper understanding of prudence and the role of conscience in medical-moral judgments.

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## ***Required Textbooks and Resources:***

*Catholic Health Care Ethics: A Manual for Practitioners.*

Edited by Edward J. Furton, M.A., Ph.D. with a foreword by Edmund D. Pellegrino, M.D. Philadelphia: The National Catholic Bioethics Center.

<http://www.ncbcenter.org/index.php/store/books/catholic-health-care-ethics-manual-practitioners-second-edition/>

## ***Spring 2019 Course Dates and Content:***

Class 1 (Jan 24): Stem Cell Research and Human Embryos

Class 2 (Jan 31): Infertility, IVF and Reproductive Technologies

Class 3 (Feb 07): Chastity in Marriage. NFP, Contraception

Class 4 (Feb 14): Principle of Double Effect and Complex Cases in Pregnancy.

Class 5 (Feb 21): Homosexuality, Intersexuality, Gender Identity, and Transgenderism

Class 6 (Mar 07): Pastoral Considerations Dealing with End of Life Issues (NO QUIZ)

## ***Accountability Exercises***

I will be sending out a weekly e-mail to you with reading assignments and study materials before each week's class. It will typically be sent out over the weekend or early Monday before the next Thursday's lecture, so the first e-mail study guide should go out to you on January 20th or 21st. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each lecture, and quizzes must be turned in at 1:15 p.m. Your first quiz will be held at the first class on January 24th.

If you are concerned that you may not be able to complete the quiz in the allotted 15 minutes of time, you may arrive 5 minutes early (at 12:55 p.m.) to begin the quiz early. Between 80-100% of each quiz will cover material from the reading materials/assignments covered in the weekly e-mail. The remaining ~20% of the quiz may be comprised of review material from prior quizzes, cumulatively extending back to the beginning of the course, so as to enable students to maintain recall of basic concepts covered throughout the course. Hence, it is advisable to review material from previous quizzes as well as material for the current quiz.

Attendance is mandatory at the class lectures, and students will be permitted to make up only 1 missed quiz during the semester.

## ***Grading***

Grades will be awarded according to the Kenrick School of Theology grading scale:

A	4.00	93–100%
A-	3.67	90–92%
B+	3.33	87–89%
B	3.00	83–86%
B-	2.67	80–82%
C+	2.33	77–79%
C	2.00	73–76%
C-	1.67	70–72%

## ***Intellectual Integrity***

The students of Kenrick School of Theology are to maintain at all times an intellectual integrity. Such integrity entails both a commitment to the truth and a refusal to be false or misleading, even when this course of action may involve inconvenience or embarrassment. Plagiarism, defined as the use of another's words or ideas without acknowledgment, is a failure in both of these dimensions. Plagiarism may involve the word-for-word use of another's phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or longer passages, always without acknowledgment; it may involve the construction of a mosaic or tissue of such passages; it may involve a paraphrase or summary of such passages; it may involve failure to identify use of another author's exact words by quotation marks or block quotes. When students make use of ideas or writings that are not their own, they are expected to acknowledge the source from which they are borrowing, either through an acknowledgment in the text or through the use of a footnote.

Plagiarism is a *serious* failure of integrity, and the faculty and administration of Kenrick view it with grave prejudice. Penalties for plagiarism include a failure in the course, a case review by the Academic Dean and the Dean of Seminarians, and possible suspension from the seminary program.