UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Spring 2015
Instructor: Lúcás Chan, S.J.
Course #: THEO 4450/5450
Section: 101
Course Title: Medical Ethics

Description:

This course addresses some of the major issues in current medical ethics from a primarily Catholic theological perspective: the beginning of human life (e.g., reproductive technologies, prenatal diagnosis, and abortion); the end of human life (e.g. euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, persistent vegetative state, and palliative care); the professional-patient relationship; the social responsibility of healthcare services, and global epidemics (e.g., HIV/AIDS). By studying the current theological debate and the teachings of the Catholic Magisterium, principles and theories will be highlighted aiming at supporting personal decision-making and professional service.

This course takes a lecture-based format. Undergraduate students will be graded on the basis of attendance and class participation, weekly papers, and two oral exams. Graduate students will be expected to undertake more substantial research projects with curricular requirements to be determined in consultation with the instructor. The course is designed for students with little or no background in the study of medical ethics, although students with prior knowledge of the subjects are encouraged to enroll as well.