

# Undergraduate Bioethics Institute

## BIO 475X

Joyce A. Shelton, PhD, Institute Director

The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity  
Trinity International University  
Deerfield, IL USA  
July 16-19, 2008

### Description

For undergraduates interested in a variety of career paths including medicine, nursing, other health-related professions, education, philosophy or theology, or for those who are simply interested in a basic introduction to the field of bioethics, this institute provides an overview of relevant bioethical issues and principles from a biblical-Christian perspective. It includes reading and assignments to be completed before the first class meeting and other assignments after the last class meeting, as well as a final paper. It also includes participation in the *Healthcare and the Common Good* conference July 17-19, 2008. This course is a unique opportunity to consider the subject and interact with a variety of academic experts, practitioners, and students at various stages of vocational and ethical preparation. The institute design allows for extensive exposure to content, as well as extensive interaction around real-life case studies.

### Objectives

- ◇ To develop biblical-Christian perspectives on a range of current topics and underlying issues in bioethics, especially as they relate to students interested in medicine, nursing, bioethics, and other health-related fields.
- ◇ To compare such perspectives with non-Christian perspectives that are particularly influential today.
- ◇ To dialogue personally with a variety of Christian leaders in health care and bioethics.
- ◇ To develop a more in-depth understanding of a particular aspect of bioethics, comparing biblical-Christian and other perspectives (for academic credit students only).

### Reading (available from Trinity Bookstore at 800-456-7323)

- ◇ *BioBasics Series* (six booklets). Gary P. Stewart et al. (Kregel).
- ◇ *Does God Need Our Help? Cloning, Assisted Suicide, and Other Challenges in Bioethics*. John F. Kilner and C. Ben Mitchell (Tyndale).
- ◇ *Bioethics: A Christian Approach in a Pluralistic Age*. Scott Rae and Paul Cox (Eerdmans).
- ◇ Case study packet (provided by the Center/Joyce Shelton).

## Assignments and Grading (academic credit students)

- ◇ Complete the reading plus attend and participate in all institute/conference sessions.
- ◇ Submit list of readings completed and sessions attended. Grade may be adjusted lower in proportion to amount of reading or session time omitted.
- ◇ Interview two or more physicians or other health professionals regarding the ethical and professional issues they find most challenging, and summarize the highlights in a 3-4 page (typed, double-spaced) paper. 20% of grade.
- ◇ Write a 10 page paper (typed, double-spaced) in which you describe a bioethical issue and interact with it from a Christian perspective. Include footnotes to assigned readings and at least two other sources. 60% of the grade.
- ◇ Construct a personal plan for addressing bioethical issues from a Christian perspective in your future education and vocation. 10% of grade.
- ◇ Fill in answers to discussion questions for each case study in the case study packet. Due at the first class session. 10% of the grade.

NOTE: All written work except the answers to case study questions is due **August 22** (personally delivered or postmarked). **DO NOT EMAIL the written assignments;** a hard copy of all work is required. Grades for late work may be adjusted lower in proportion to how late it is. **Please provide the instructor with a self-addressed stamped envelope in which to return papers and grades (or else put a TIU campus box number on the paper's cover page).**

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## Lecturers

Linda Duncan, RN, ND, North Park University

John Dunlop, MD, Zion Clinic

Nancy Jones, PhD, National Institutes of Health

Jennifer Lahl, MA, Center for Bioethics and Culture Network

Scott Rae, PhD, Biola University

Joyce Shelton, PhD, Trinity International University

Dennis Sullivan MD, Cedarville College

Nick Yates, MD, Genesee-Transit Pediatrics, LLP

*Plus plenary speakers from the Healthcare and the Common Good Conference*

## Schedule

### Wednesday July 16

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Orientation to Course and Foundations of Bioethics— <i>Joyce Shelton, PhD</i>
10:30 – Noon	Reproductive Technologies, <i>Joyce Shelton, PhD</i>
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Genetic Intervention - <i>Nancy Jones, PhD</i>
4:00 – 5:30	<i>All Institutes: Medical Tourism Panel, Moderator: Dennis Sullivan, MD</i>
5:30 -	Optional reception (food served)
7:00 – 8:30	<i>All-Institutes: Egg Donation for Research, Jennifer Lahl, MA</i>

### Thursday July 17

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Economics and Ethics in Healthcare, <i>Scott Rae, PhD</i>
11:00 - 12:30 p.m.	Healthcare Practice, <i>Nick Yates, MD and Linda Duncan, RN, ND</i>
1:45 - 3:15	Assisted Suicide and End of Life Issues, <i>John Dunlop, MD</i>
3:15 - 4:15	Beginning of Life Issues, <i>Dennis Sullivan MD</i>
4:15 - 4:30	Conclusion— <i>Joyce Shelton, PhD</i>
5:00 - 6:30	Optional reception (food served)
6:30	<i>Healthcare and the Common Good Conference begins</i>

### Friday, July 13

All Day/Evening	<i>Healthcare and the Common Good conference</i>
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### Saturday, July 14

All Day	<i>Healthcare and the Common Good conference</i>
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