

Revised October 2007

2 or 3 hrs. undergraduate credit available

For updates check: <http://www.cbhd.org/conferences>

**EXTENDING LIFE:
SETTING THE AGENDA FOR THE ETHICS OF
AGING, DEATH, AND IMMORTALITY
PH/BIO 475X Section**

**Professor: Joyce Shelton, Ph.D
Department of Biology
Trinity International University**

**The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity
Phoenix, AZ
March 6-8, 2008**

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to enable students to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the *Extending Life* Conference March 6-8, 2008. Attendance at conference sessions and preparatory readings will allow students to reflect critically on the issues of the conference. Selection of a specific topic of interest from those considered in the conference and/or reading materials will allow an opportunity for extended research.

Required Reading (may be purchased from Trinity Bookstore by calling 800-456-7323)

- Cutrer, William et. al. *Basic Questions on End of Life Decisions: How Do We Know What's Right?* Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1998.
- Stewart, Gary P. et al. *Basic Questions on Suicide and Euthanasia: Are They Ever Right?* Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1998
- Dyck, Arthur J. *Life's Worth: The Case Against Assisted Suicide.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Kilner, John. *Life on the Line: Ethics, Aging, Ending Patients' Lives and Allocating Vital Resources.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.

Assignments (for 3-semester-hour students unless otherwise indicated)

Pre-Conference Reading. All students are required to read **all four books.** prior to the first meeting of the class March 6, 2008.

Class Meetings. Conference registration for wrap-around credit students will take place Thursday, March 6 between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the hotel foyer. (Students who have taken an Institute that week will have already registered.) Students will be expected to attend three special class meetings:

- **Thursday afternoon, March 6, 4:45-6:00 p.m.** The Grace Inn, 10827 S. 51st Street, Phoenix, AZ (480.893.3000) Room TBA
- **Lunchtime (11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) Friday and Saturday** March 7 & 8 Room TBA-- bring your conference supplied lunch to the class meeting
- These will be mainly interactive discussion sessions where topics from the conference

program and/or the reading will be addressed.

Conference Participation and Critiques. Students will be expected to be faithful in conference attendance. A list of all plenary and parallel sessions attended should be submitted together with one-page typewritten critiques (strengths and weaknesses) of each plenary session. [Only 3 critiques are required for students in 2-semester-hour course.]

Post-Conference Research Paper. Students will be required to submit a typewritten research paper (2 hrs credit—2,500 to 3,000 words, double spaced in 12 point standard type plus notes and bibliography; 3hr credit-- and 3500-4,000 words, double spaced in 12 point standard type, plus notes and bibliography) related to the conference themes. It must discuss either a topic explicitly related to the conference or one cleared in writing with the instructor no later than the last meeting of the class during the conference. The paper will require references to some assigned readings, as well as to at least two additional books (or their equivalent in articles), and several articles on the topic chosen (internet articles must be fully referenced as to author and reliability). **Please submit hard copies of all written assignments--do not e-mail assignments** (fax will be accepted if instructor notified in advance)

Post-conference assignments (lists, critiques, and papers) must be postmarked (U.S. mail) by May 1, 2008 to:

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Grading

The research paper will be 80% of the course grade; and the session critiques will be 20%. Late papers, excused in advance by the instructor, will be penalized by a half letter (1-5 days late) or a full letter (5-10 days late). Papers more than 10 days late will not be accepted unless an official extension has been granted by the institution.

Please provide the instructor with a self-addressed stamped envelope in which to return papers and grades.