

Course Unit Outline	
Unit Code	E7350
Unit Name	Christian Anthropology and Biomedical Ethics
Unit Weighting	9
Type of Unit	Specialised
Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions	E7100 Sources and Principles of Christian Ethics or E7200 Methods in Christian Ethics or W7222 Moral Philosophy.
Academic Staff	Gerald Gleeson, STB (CIS 1978), MA (Cantab 1987), PhD (Leuven 1989), Associate Professor.
Curriculum Objectives	This unit introduces the student to the ethical issues involved in contemporary medicine and health care, with a view to moral decision making in keeping with Christian principles.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and clarify the moral issues present in contemporary medicine and health care 2. Critically expound the theological anthropology which underpins a Catholic approach to bioethics 3. Describe and apply key Catholic ethical principles in relation to bioethical issues at the beginning of human life 4. Describe and apply key Catholic ethical principles in relation to bioethical issues in relation to human aging and end of life care 5. Develop an in-depth analysis of a contested contemporary bioethical issue.
Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit	The relationship between secular bioethics and theological approaches to bioethics.
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Philosophical and theological principles in bioethics 2) Spirituality and the health care professional. 3) Theological understandings of life and death, the human person, human well-being and care. 4) The proper goals of medicine and health care. 5) Beginning of life issues: reproductive technologies, abortion, disabled newborn 6) End of life issues: withholding and withdrawing treatment; euthanasia; terminal sedation. 7) Special issues, including genetics, justice and resource allocation, organ transplantation, research, institutional ethics, and mental health.
Learning Activities	Lectures, seminars and student presentations.
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment	n/a
Assessment Profile	<p>Assessments tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, the required assessment tasks will enable students to demonstrate how successfully they can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the relationship between theological anthropology and bioethics [Outcomes 1, 2] (e.g. in an essay) 2. Critically examine at least one key ethical principle in a Catholic approach to bioethics, e.g. double effect reasoning; formal and material cooperation. (e.g. in an essay) [Outcomes 1, 2, and 4]

3. Identify and develop an in-depth analysis of a contested contemporary bioethical, e.g. in a long essay or student presentation [Outcomes 1, 2 and 5]

Representative References

- Ashley, B.M. DeBlois, Jean & K.D. O'Rourke. *Ethics of Health Care: An Introductory Textbook*. 5th ed. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2006.
- Basterra, F.J.E. *Bioethics*. Slough: St Pauls, 1994.
- Cahill, L.S. *Theological Bioethics. Participation, Justice, and Change*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2005.
- Fisher, Anthony. *Catholic Bioethics for a New Millennium*. Cambridge: CUP, 2012.
- Jensen, Steven J. (ed.) *The Ethics of Organ Transplantation*. Washington DC.: CUA Press, 2011.
- Kuhse, H., P. Singer (eds). *Bioethics. An Anthology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.
- May, William E. *Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life*. (2nd ed.) Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor, 2008.
- Reich, W.T. *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, 5 vols., revised ed. New York: Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1995.
- Somerville, M. *The Ethical Canary. Science, Society and the Human Spirit*. Ringwood, Vic.: Viking, 2000.
- Sugarman, J. and D.P. Sulmasy: *Methods in Medical Ethics*. 2nd ed. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2010.
- Sulmasy, Daniel P. *A Balm for Gilead: Meditation on Spirituality and the Healing Arts*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2006.
- Sulmasy, D.P. *The Rebirth of the Clinic. An Introduction to Spirituality in Health Care*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2006.
- Tonti-Filippine. *About Bioethics*. Ballan: Connor Court, 2011.
- Wildes, K.W., A.C. Mitchell. *Choosing Life. A Dialogue on 'Evangelium Vitae'*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 1997.