

Syllabus for
BIO 456—Biomedical Ethics
3.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2021

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A capstone course for junior and senior biology students. Deals with ethical aspects of current biological technologies and issues such as creation-evolution, genetic engineering, biomedical issues, human population control, and environmental ethics, from a Christian perspective.
Prerequisite: 16 hours of biology.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to enable science majors to integrate their biological knowledge with their morals, ethics and Christian faith, and subsequently to address rationally contemporary issues in the biological sciences from a Christian perspective.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing the course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Distinguish science, pseudoscience and religion in written papers and oral presentations.
- B. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the various models of creation and evolution, and subsequently to develop one's own view of origin based on sound Biblical and scientific information.
- C. Address the current and potential ethical dilemmas presented by recombinant DNA and genetic engineering technology.
- D. Apply a Biblical-based approach to human population and world hunger problems.
- E. Apply Biblical-based principles to human's care, use, and abuse of the environment.
- F. State a personal Christian perspective on ethical challenges in medicine, most notably issues in reproductive and life support technologies.
- G. Write concise and informative essays, clearly expressing one's own views on a bioethical issue.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Textbooks
Must have access to ORU library for primary journal articles and e-books.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
2. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
3. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Grades are based on **attendance, participation, presentation, and completed forums and projects** of each unit's topic. There is one final comprehensive essay exam. Students are expected to be prepared each class period by completing required readings and participate in the discussion by asking thought-provoking questions and comments. Student teams will present informative, thought-provoking presentations on various bioethical topics. following the prior week's discussion. **Late work will be penalized 10% for each day late.**

b. The grade in this course is based upon the following criteria:

Unit Forums	550pts
Unit Projects	150pts
WPA Presentation	100pts
Class Participation in Discussion	100pts
	900pts

*Note: Missing class will also lower a student's grade on their participation and critique. **Also, every 2 tardies is equal to 1 absence.**

c. Final Course Grading Scale:

A > 90%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69% ~ F < 59%

2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements

A critique will be used to satisfy outcome 4 for the departmental Whole Person Assessment.

3. Class Format

a. The course is a discussion seminar format in which students and faculty present, discuss, and debate different positions of an issue. Class meets for one 2-hour period per week. 1-hour of the class will be used for readings and group discussions pertaining to the unit topics. The class will be divided into small groups to discuss different topics that will be presented to the class. Groups representing differing viewpoints of an issue will present a topic each class period.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

(May be modified based on time and student interest.)

Week	Topic and Subtopics
1-2	Unit 1: Introduction to Bioethics and Applied Ethics in Medicine
3-4	Unit 2: Applying Ethics
5-6	Unit 3: Public Health Ethics
7-8	Unit 4: End of Life Issues
9-10	Unit 5: Assisted Reproductive Technologies
11-12	Unit 6: Bioethics Issue: Topic, Outline, and Research Proposal
13-14	Unit 7: Final Project
15	Bioethics Final

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

Biomedical Ethics – BIO 456 Spring 2021

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical literacy		X		
1B	Spiritual Formation		X		
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking, creativity, and aesthetics	X			
2B	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2C	Information literacy		X		
2D	Knowledge of the physical and natural world	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle		X		
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Ethical reasoning and behavior	X			
4B	Intercultural knowledge and engagement	X			
4C	Written and Oral Communication	X			
4D	Leadership capacity		X		

(Revised 8/1/17)