COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is the relationship between bodies, beliefs, and power? This course analyzes challenging ethical issues in religion and health care from Christian (Catholic and Protestant), Jewish, and Islamic theological perspectives. We begin by exploring various bioethical frameworks (narrative, virtue, principles, etc.) before applying these methods to a range of practical issues: end of life care, maternal-fetal relations, transplantation ethics, human genetics, research, and global health. In addition to theology and philosophy, the course engages the disciplines of politics, law, and public policy.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES:

• Students are expected to attend every lecture.

• Students are expected to arrive on time for class, which begins promptly at 11am. Tardiness disrupts your professor and classmates. The habit of tardiness reflects poorly on your capacity for professionalism in any field that you may choose to pursue.

• Students are expected to attend every discussion section. You are permitted one (1) absence for any reason (no TA approval necessary). Additional absences require approval from TA. Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

• Students are expected to switch your cell phone to silent or vibrate prior to every class. Please store your device away from your work surface. Unapproved use of cell phones during class will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

• Students are expected to use laptops and tablet devices responsibly during class. These devices can be powerful tools in the classroom setting. While they can be a catalyst for engagement and productivity, they can also distract from the communal interaction and conversation that is the foundation of liberal arts education. Thus, these devices are permitted for taking notes, for viewing texts, and for facilitating group work only.

• Students are expected to complete the assigned reading every week. Please come to class (both lecture and discussion section) prepared to discuss and engage the primary arguments, salient points, and possible critiques of each text. Failure to complete reading and prepare for class will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

• Students are expected to submit assignments by their designated deadlines. Late assignments will not be accepted and thus will receive no credit. Extensions may be granted by your TA in consultation with Prof. Flores in extraordinary situations (possibly during documented medical or family emergency, but never due
to conflict with another course’s requirements). Please contact your TA with questions.

- **Students are expected to take both the midterm and the final exam on their scheduled dates.** Exams will only be rescheduled upon official approval of the Dean’s Office, no exceptions.

- **Students with documented disabilities can expect appropriate accommodations whenever necessary.** All students with special needs requiring accommodations should present the appropriate paperwork from the Student Disability Access Center (SDAC). It is the student’s responsibility to present this paperwork in a timely fashion and follow up with the instructor (in this case, the discussion section TA) about the accommodations being offered. Accommodations for examinations (e.g., extended time, low distraction environment) should be arranged at least one week before an exam. The SDAC is located in the Department of Student Health and can be contacted at (434) 243-5180/5181.

- **Student athletes are expected to present official notification of expected absences as soon as this information is available.** Exams may not be proctored by team academic representatives, no exceptions.

**HONOR CODE:** Prof. Flores trusts every student to comply with all of the provisions of the University’s Honor Code. By enrolling in this course, the student has agreed to abide by and uphold the Honor System of the University of Virginia, as well as the following policies specific to this course:

- **All graded assignments—response essays, examinations, and event attendance—must be pledged.** Please record your pledge at the end of each written assignment and examination. Please consult your TA if you have any questions about pledging assignments.

- **Collaboration in the form of discussion (study groups for exams) and peer review (for response essays) is permitted for this course.** Discussing essay ideas and consulting other students for help refining arguments, revision feedback, and editing is encouraged in this class. Please consult your TA if you have any questions about acceptable collaboration.

- **Unattributed use of material is prohibited on all assignments in this course.** Parenthetical citation is acceptable for response essays and direct quotations in exams. Please consult your TA if you have any questions about citation.

- **Posting PowerPoint presentations to online sources, either public or private, is prohibited for this class.** This is an infringement of intellectual property rights and will be reported to the University.

- **Recording lectures is strictly prohibited.** Exceptions for recording will be made for students with SDAC approval.

- **Recording any part of lecture and/or posting to social media (i.e. Snapchat, YouTube) without the professor’s permission is prohibited for this class.**

- **Suspected violations will be forwarded to the Honor Committee.** Further, Prof. Flores may decide to assign a score of zero on the assignment in question regardless of any action taken by the Honor Committee.

**Please consult Prof. Flores any questions regarding the course honor policy.** If you believe you may have committed an Honor offense, you may wish to file a Conscientious Retraction by calling the Honor Offices at (434) 924-7602. For your retraction to be
considered valid, it must be filed with the Honor Committee before you are aware that the act in question has come under suspicion by anyone. More information can be found at http://www.virginia.edu/honor. Your Honor representatives can be found at: http://www.virginia.edu/honor/2015-2016-representatives/.

**GRADING POLICY:** Written work is graded based on persuasiveness of **thesis/argument**, quality and authoritativeness of **evidence** (quality and factual correctness), **writing quality**, and depth of **analysis/insight**. Further, essays should model both charitable and critical engagement with the myriad religious perspectives explored in class. *Ad hominem* attacks on any author or religious perspective will be viewed negatively by the party responsible for grading the work (e.g. “The author is obviously stupid” or “People from X religion are depraved,” etc.)

- **Appealing Grades:** *A student may email TA to request an appointment for grade review, but must wait 48 hours after an assignment has been returned.* The TA will hear the case before consulting Prof. Flores for a final decision. Grade reviews can result in grade increase or reduction, or confirm the initial assigned grade.
- **Drafts:** *TAs have been instructed to not read drafts of written assignments in this class.* They will, however, meet with you during their designated office hours to discuss your paper topic.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Course grades will be based on the following elements:

- **Participation** – 10% This portion of your grade is based on three elements:
  - **Adherence to course policies** (see “Course Expectation and Policies” and “Honor Code” sections for details)
  - **Quality of contribution to discussion section.** Each student is expected to contribute to discussion section.
  - **Friday Symposium Attendance.** Each student is required to attend at least one (1) Friday Symposium event over the course of the semester, but can attend as many as desired. Please sign-in to receive credit.

- **Reading Response Essays** – 20%
  Preparation and presentation to discussion section of three (3) short response essays (maximum length: 2 pages each, double-spaced, 1” margins). Each essay will make an argument in relation to the reading. Requirements and schedule sign-up will be provided during discussion section.

- **Midterm Examination** – 30%
- **Final Examination** – 40%

**FRIDAY SYMPOSIA SCHEDULE:** Friday Symposia offer students the opportunity to discuss topics of interest with Prof. Flores and the teaching team in a more intimate setting than the large lecture. There are no required readings for these events; simply show up to the symposium and try on various methods and ideas in bioethical thinking in an informal setting. Symposia are held in from 11-11:50 in our regular lecture hall; please sign-in to receive credit. Topics will include informal conversations concerning bioethics and film,
bioethics and social media, hospital chaplaincy, and bioethics and sports, among others. Topics will be announced as they are finalized. The schedule is tentative and subject to change:

1. September 1
2. September 15
3. October 13
4. October 27
5. November 10
6. December 1

REQUIRED TEXTS: (Course texts are on reserve at Clemons Library.)
3. (CR) Course Reader – Available for purchase from N.K. Print & Design

*Indicates readings new to Fall 2017 course reader

COURSE SCHEDULE:

PART I: TRADITIONS AND METHODS IN THEOLOGICAL BIOETHICS

Week 1 – August 23
Theological Bioethics: Bodies, Beliefs, and Power (101)
Skloot, Prologue and Chapters 1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27 (101)
FILM: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Week 2 – August 28 & 30
Encountering Religious Perspectives (59)
(CR) Kelly, Magill, & Have, “Religion and Health Care” (7)*
(CR) Kelly, Magill, & Have, “The Dignity of Human Life” (14)*
(CR) Dorff, “The Jewish Tradition: Religious Beliefs & Health Care Decisions” (5)
(CR) Meilaender, “Christian Vision” (9)
(CR) Sachedina, “Health and Suffering” (24)

Week 3 – September 4 & 6
Exploring Methods in Bioethics: Principles I (58)
(CR) Childress and Siegler, “Metaphors and Models of Doctor-Patient Relationships: Their Implications for Autonomy” (12)
B&C, Chapter 4, “Respect for Autonomy,” pp. 101-114 (14)
FILM: *Fortitude*
Week 4 – September 11 & 13
Exploring Methods in Bioethics: Principles II (74)
B&C, Chapter 5, “Nonmaleficence” (44)
B&C, Chapter 8, “Professional-Patient Relationship,” pp. 302-310 (9)

Weeks 5 & 6 – September 18, 20, & 25
Exploring Methods in Bioethics: Critiques of Principles and New Directions (62)
(CR) Mustafa, “Islam and the Four Principles of Medical Ethics” (4)
(CR) Zoloth, “Heroic Measures: Just Bioethics in an Unjust World” (6)
(CR) Cahill, “Participatory Bioethics in Action” (27)*
(CR) Keenan, “What Does Virtue Ethics Bring to Genetics?” (13)
FILM: The Courage of One’s Convictions

MIDTERM REVIEW CLASS – Wednesday, September 27
READING DAY – Monday, October 3
MIDTERM EXAM – Wednesday, October 4

NO DISCUSSION SECTION MEETINGS FOR WEEK

PART II: ISSUES IN BIOETHICS
Week 8 – October 9 & 11
End of Life Care I: Religious Perspectives (44)
   (a) Religious Traditions:
      (CR) CDF, “Declaration on Euthanasia” (6)
      (CR) Sachedina, “Death and Dying” (27)
      Review: Dorff

   (b) Decisions & Determinations:
      (CR) President’s Commission, “Understanding the ‘Meaning’ of Death,” pp. 31-43 (13)
      (CR) Gillick, “Artificial Nutrition and Hydration…” (4)
      (CR) Address of Pope John Paul II (20 March, 2004) (4)
      (CR) President’s Council on Bioethics, “The Limited Wisdom of Advanced Directives” (13)

FILM: One Brief Life: The Case of Baby L

Week 9 – October 16 & 18
End of Life Care II: Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) (20)
(CR) Oregon Death with Dignity Act (2014 report) (6)
(CR) Quill, “Doctor, I Want to Die. Will You Help Me?” (4)
(CR) Pellegrino, “Compassion Needs Reason Too” (2)
(CR) Callahan, “When Self-Determination Runs Amok” (4)
Week 10 – October 23 & 25
Organ and Tissue Transplantation (46)
(CR) Satel, “An Internet Lifeline, in Search of a Kidney” (5)
(CR) Satel, “Why People Don’t Donate Their Kidneys” (4)
(CR) Sandel, “How Markets Crowd Out Morals” (2)
(CR) Emily Kelly, “International Organ Trafficking Crisis: Solutions Addressing the Heart of the Matter” (33)
B&C, pp. 54-55 (living organ and tissue donation) (2)
FILM: Tales from the Organ Trade

Week 11 – October 30 & November 1
Maternal-Fetal Relations I: Abortion (74)
(CR) SCOTUS, “Roe v. Wade: Majority Opinion and Dissent” (5)*
(CR) Beckwith, “Roe v. Wade: Its Logic and Legacy” (18)
(CR) Manian, “The Consequences of Abortion Restrictions for Women’s Healthcare” (21)
(CR) Asch, “Can Aborting ‘Imperfect’ Children Be Immoral?” (4)
(CR) Rubio, “Abortion: Toward Cooperation with the Good” (26)

Week 12 – November 6 & 8
Maternal-Fetal Relations II: Contexts and New Directions (23)
  a) Pregnancy and Childbirth:
     (CR) Klein, “Get the Epidural” (5)
     (CR) Zeh, “Get Compassion: Reflections on Childbirth and Privilege,” (3)
  b) Pregnancy Reduction:
     (CR) Declaration of the Pontifical Council for the Family regarding ‘Embryonic Reduction’ (2)
     (CR) Rosner, “Pregnancy Reduction in Jewish Law” (5)
  c) Conscientious Refusal:
     (CR) ACOG Committee Opinion, “The Limits of Conscientious Refusal” (6)*
     (CR) Dresser, “Professionals, Conformity, and Conscience” (2)*

FILM: The Lynchburg Story

Week 13 & 14 – November 13 & 15
Human Genetics and Research Involving Human Subjects (72)
  a) Human Genetics:
     (CR) U.S. Supreme Court, Buck v. Bell (1927) (4)
     (CR) Gould, “Carrie Buck’s Daughter” (9)
     (CR) Mundy, “A World of Their Own,” (8)
     (CR) Kilner, “The Ends Don’t Justify the Genes” (2)
     (CR) Mitchell, “Hurtling Toward Eugenics…Again” (3)
     B&C, “The Concept of Privacy,” pp. 312-324 (13)
  b) Research Involving Human Subjects:
     (CR) The Nuremberg Code (1)
(CR) Emanuel, et. al., “What Makes Clinical Research Ethical?” (10)
B&C, “The Meaning and Justification of Informed Consent,” pp. 120-141 (22)
FILM: The Deadly Deception

THANKSGIVING RECESS: NO LECTURE OR DISCUSSION SECTION –
Wednesday, November 20 & 22

Week 15 – November 20 & 22
Health Care and Global Health Ethics (62)
a) Health Care:
   (CR) Arras, “The Right to Health Care” (12)*

b) Global Health:
   (CR) Fenton, “Bioethics and Human Rights” (12)*

FINAL REVIEW CLASS – Monday, December 4
FINAL EXAMINATION – TBA