Course Description

This course stands at the intersection of ethics, sociology, and social criticism. We will study the meanings of justice with respect to three issues: 1) the distribution of health and the distribution of health care in the United States; 2) the questions of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide; 3) reproductive technology and the genetic revolution. **NOTE 1:** Re attention will be given to the first and third topics. Other topics which will influence the entire semester include: whether social power should be a condition for enjoying quality health or for receiving quality health care; if medical cost-cutting tempts physicians to under-treat patients; whether the social conditions for welcoming children into the world are aided or impeded by contemporary reproductive and genetic technologies. **NOTE 2:** We will be looking to you for other salient and interesting topics for class consideration.

Texts for Purchase (buy them where you want but DO buy them. Caveat emptor)

- Abraham, *Momma Might Be Better Off Dead*
- Rothman, *The Book of Life*
- Callahan, *False Hopes*
- Meilaender, *Bioethics: A Primer for Christians*
- Huxley, *Brave New World & Brave New World Revisited*

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation in class (20% of final grade)

A midterm essay, 5-7 pages, that critically responds to issues covered in the first half of the course. **Due Date: October 8** (40%).

Four 2-3 page papers (due after fall break) that critically address themes and issues covered after midterm, while keeping in mind our discussions earlier on (40%).
Schedule of Topics and Readings

Part One. Social Inequality and Health Inequality

Readings through September 17 include:
- Rothman, ix-xv, Introduction, Part I
- Abraham, specific readings TBA
- Various materials on reserve

Part Two. A Prescription for Sustainable, Affordable, and Equitable Medicine

Readings through October 12 include:
- Callahan, chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9

Part Three. Euthanasia and an Introduction to Christian Bioethics

Readings through November 2:
- Meilaender, Introduction and chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11

Part Four. Reproductive Technology, The Genetic Revolution, and Social Inequality

Readings through November 19:
- Huxley, Brave New World
- Huxley, Brave New World Revisited (selections TBA)

Readings through December 12:
- Rothman, Parts II-IV, Conclusion