Moral Dimensions of the Christian Life (TMCE7004)
2nd Summer Session: July 18—August 4, 2016
Evenings 6:00—9:00 PM
Books Ordered March 7, 2016 [OA3743312]

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Office Hours in Simboli 212: TBD after the first class meeting (when we can determine what times work best for the students themselves)

Course Description:

This course provides a foundational and systematic overview of the basic components of Catholic moral theology. The content of the course is an exposition and analysis of topics traditionally treated under the heading of fundamental moral theology: moral character, moral freedom and its limits, the relationship of spirituality and morality, sin and conversion, conscience, the use of scripture in moral reasoning, natural law, the teaching authority of the church in moral matters, the development of moral norms, discernment and moral decision-making.

Course Assignments

Careful Preparation of Course Materials, Attendance, and Class Participation are presumed.

Completion of weekly short online quizzes on moral terminology covered each week.

Discussion Board Postings on Readings Students will be divided into two or three groups at the first class and will alternate posting reflection questions and responses on Canvas on selected assigned readings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (for the following Monday). Examples of these will provided in the first class.

Case Studies: One 4-5 page Case Study related to the course material of a given week will be due on Canvas by Monday at noon following Week One and Week Two.

A Final Paper or Project Choosing ONE (1) of these three options
These three options for the final assignment will be explained fully in the first class session. Examples of these will be provided in the first few days of class. The Final Option will be due the Monday after the course ends (i.e., August 8, 2016).

**Option 1** is to read one extra book related to the Course themes from the list below, and then to do a 10-page paper relating and analyzing that book’s materials to the appropriate themes in the course. See below for a list of possible books.

**Option 2** is to take one of the concrete issues currently being disputed in the Church or among moral theologians and analyze the arguments and evidence in the contrasting positions before giving your own position. This type of analysis is called a “Status Quaestionis of a Quaestio Disputata” [State of a Disputed Question]

**Option 3 Bioethics Movie Case Analysis:** View at least one (1) of the following movies (available on in the O’Neill Library Media Center OR personal loan from the professor): “Lorenzo’s Oil,” “Steel Magnolias,” “My Sister’s Keeper,” “Wit.” If available, the scripts will be posted on Canvas and/or from the Professor, but they are NOT required reading for this assignment. Then, in an essay of no more than 15 (fifteen) pages discuss one or more of the principal bioethical issues that arose in your chosen film. See below for a list of possible movies.

**Course Thematic Overview** (Detailed Topics & Readings in the Syllabus below)

**Week 1:** *Moral Dimension in Foundational Issues in Moral Theology*

**Week 2:** *Moral Dimensions in Relational and Sexual Ethics*

**Week 3:** *Moral Dimensions in Health Care, Bioethics and Faith in Politics*

**Learning Outcomes:** By the conclusion of this course the student should be able to

1) Describe Catholic fundamental moral theology and articulate a general methodology and specific approaches to address particular topics listed in the accompanying *Course Description*, such as The Moral Person and Moral Community; Conscience, Moral Norms and the Natural Law; Evaluations of Moral Acts; Sin (personal and social), Conversion and Reconciliation; Roles of Church Teaching (Magisterium) & Tradition.

2) Be able to identify, evaluate, and explain the relative magisterial authority in line with the triple criteria of *character, manner*, and *frequency* expressed in *Lumen gentium* #25 of the range of documents and teachings from the Pope, the various dicasteries of the Holy See, Bishops Conferences and individual bishops.

3) Articulate recent magisterial, theological and historical developments in both methodology and application to selected concrete issues such as in the areas of sexual ethics, health care and bioethics, and Catholics in the political arena.
4) Describe these major theological debates on each topic and articulate a critical assessment of the various positions and present them in an understandable academic manner commensurate with graduate study a *status quaestionis* project on a moral issue that is currently a matter of ongoing debate within the field of Roman Catholic moral theology.

5) Frame and apply a pastoral approach shaped by Catholic fundamental moral theology to concrete pastoral moral cases in selected areas as in the areas of sexual ethics, health care and bioethics, and Catholics in the political arena.

**REQUIRED BOOKS**


**RECOMMENDED BOOKS** (One, except Bretzke’s, to be chosen for Book Report Assignment)


_N.B._ Each student who chooses Option One as the Final Report must choose ONE [1] of these following books to read and incorporate in a final essay on the course themes due after the conclusion of the course. *With the professor’s advance permission* another book may be substituted for this assignment.


Other recommended readings will be suggested throughout the course, and students are also encouraged to suggest readings and/or post links to the course web-page.

*N.B.* Associate Academic Dean Bader has mandated that the following be added to all BC syllabi:

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is expected at all 12 classes. If an absence is foreseen please contact the professor before the class to be missed; if it is *foreseen* that there would be more than 2 absences in the summer session please do not take this class since STM policy holds that that course absences of 25% or more result in no academic credit for the course. If an absence is unforeseen (e.g., illness or emergency) please contact the professor as soon as possible after the missed class. Absences result in lowering of the final grade or failure.

**For Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Kathy Duggan (Kathleen.duggan@bc.edu) Associate Director, Academic Support Services, the Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities and ADHD) or Paulette Durrett (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** Plagiarism is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one’s own. Penalties at Boston College range from a grade penalty to dismissal from the University. To avoid plagiarism, any use of another’s words or ideas must be fully cited. If in the original wording, quotation marks or blocked, indented quotations must be used. For more information regarding plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity, please consult the STM website at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/stm/acadprog/acadpol.html [link verified June 6, 2013]

**STM School-Wide Grading Policy** (adopted by the Faculty in the Fall 2012): based on the Academic Policies of Boston College for Graduate Courses. All grading in this class is reflective of these descriptions.

*A* Work is exceptional in every respect. There is an active and sophisticated engagement with all aspect of the course, demonstrated through careful analysis or creative treatment of the ideas covered. Both full class participation (including full attendance) and written work indicate outstanding mastery of content, originality of thought clearly expressed, and clarity in connecting course concepts with ministerial and theological interests.
**A-** Work is superior and above the average graduate level expectations. This involves mastery of the course content, recognition of the “big picture” within which course material is situated, and capacity to make cogent links with one’s ministerial and theological position. This level is reflected in the ability to express one’s thoughts effectively in writing and to contribute significantly to class conversation.

**B+** Work is more than satisfactory at the graduate level. This involves mastery of the course content and the ability to draw connections across course topics and with appropriate theological and ministerial topics. Contribution to class conversation gives evidence of both active listening and thoughtful participation. Written work is clear, focused and well organized.

**B** Work is clearly satisfactory at the graduate level. There is consistent engagement with, and a basic mastery of, the course material with a good command of the various topics.

**B-** Work is barely acceptable at the graduate level. This reflects a basic command of the course material, an adequate articulation of the connections across content areas, and a basic recognition of the implications for pastoral work.

**C** Work is marginally acceptable at the graduate level. This is a basic mastery of most of the course materials but not all. It represents that you have slipped below an acceptable level of work in one or two areas.

**F** Work is unsatisfactory and fails to meet the requirements of the course.

*An Important Note on the Use of Canvas for the Course:*

Since all course communication, announcements, e-mail, electronic documents, assignments, etc. will be handled using Canvas it is imperative that each student configure their e-mail address so that Canvas-generated e-mails are automatically forwarded to whatever e-mail account is actually used. Since announcements and course updates will be posted on the “Course Content” page (which will be the first page seen when logging onto the Canvas course web-page) it is very important that students consult this page at least once before each course meeting. If you encounter technological issues in using Canvas please contact either the IT Help Desk or the Canvas support staff at cms@bc.edu; please do not contact the instructor to resolve technical issues as this will likely only delay solution of the problem. Online tutorials and support services on the use of Canvas can be found at [http://www.bc.edu/offices/cte/tools/canvas.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/cte/tools/canvas.html) [link verified January 2, 2016]

**DAILY THEMES, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*N.B. Depending on initial student background, available time, desires and expectations for the course, etc., and/or developing issues in the news, we may adapt the particular readings and schedule given below.*
Preparatory Study Activities To Be Done Before the Course Begins

*Ideally* try to have read and/or viewed the following *before* the course begins,

**Written Assignment Due First Class:** Based on the assigned reading below please have ready to submit electronically on *Canvas* the first day of class your own critical understanding of the Church’s position that one must always follow one’s formed and informed conscience (cf. also *Gaudium et spes* #16, *Dignitatis humanae* #1-3, 11, 13, 14)

Chapters 1, 2, & 4 of James T. Bretzke’s *A Morally Complex World: Engaging Contemporary Moral Theology*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004. ISBN 0814651585, *USING both the Study Guide Questions* found on *Canvas* and online at [https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/StudyQuestionsMorallyComplexWorld.pdf](https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/StudyQuestionsMorallyComplexWorld.pdf) and the accompanying narrated Panopto Power Point presentations. These can be viewed *either* as a sort of *pre-lection* to chapters in *A Morally Complex World* and/or as a *review* after doing the reading of the text itself. These Presentations have the individual slides narrated and may be stopped and reviewed as the individual’s discretion. Links to these presentations will be provided in *Canvas*.

*Part One of Introduction to Moral Methodology:*
[https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d1251b58-f539-4e4d-a1bc-d4b9c5ea2bb2](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d1251b58-f539-4e4d-a1bc-d4b9c5ea2bb2)

*Part Two of Introduction to Moral Methodology:*
[https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6e0a87e7-03ad-471b-b11b-2a15a195cb74](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6e0a87e7-03ad-471b-b11b-2a15a195cb74)

*Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience Power Point* [https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/CatholicMoralTheologyOfConscience.ppsx](https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/CatholicMoralTheologyOfConscience.ppsx)

*Optional viewing to accompany Chapter 4:*

**Part 1:** Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration): [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=16eda080-4028-4e18-b92d-d0b30e49b400](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=16eda080-4028-4e18-b92d-d0b30e49b400)

**Part 2:** Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration): [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b70e7cef-6029-4127-8d23-10667cc2cf03](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b70e7cef-6029-4127-8d23-10667cc2cf03)

**Part 3:** Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration): [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3d4bf171-041a-45d2-a0c2-ddf87a85044c](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3d4bf171-041a-45d2-a0c2-ddf87a85044c)

**Part 4:** Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration): [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=18e0a150-ef69-40de-922e-f11e60af7716](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=18e0a150-ef69-40de-922e-f11e60af7716)

Recommended Reading

N.B. Because the last half of the course focuses on “contemporary” moral problems there may be occasional short “op-ed” types of articles or brief news reports that will likely be asked to be read. These will be uploaded to Canvas in a special folder marked “Current News Pieces” and hopefully these will encourage class discussion.

Week 1: Moral Dimension in Foundational Issues in Moral Theology July 18

Monday: Introduction and Moral Methodology July 18

Required Reading:
Bretzke, Morally Complex World, Chs. 1, 5

Watch & Review the Power Point Presentations: Introduction to Moral Theology Parts 1 & 2 on Canvas

Part One of Introduction to Moral Methodology:
https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d1251b58-f539-4e4d-a1bc-d4b9c5ea2bb2

Part Two of Introduction to Moral Methodology:
https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6e0a87e7-03ad-471b-b11b-2a15a195cb74

Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience Power Point https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/CatholicMoralTheologyOfConscience.ppsx

Optional viewing to accompany Chapter 4:
Part 1: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration): https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=16eda080-4028-4e18-b92d-d0b30e49b400
**Part 2: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience** (with narration): [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b70e7cef-6029-4127-8d23-10667cc2cf03](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b70e7cef-6029-4127-8d23-10667cc2cf03)

**Part 3: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience** (with narration): [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3d4bf171-041a-45d2-a0c2-ddf87a85044c](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3d4bf171-041a-45d2-a0c2-ddf87a85044c)

**Part 4: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience** (with narration): [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=18e0a150-ef69-40dc-922e-f11e60a7716](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=18e0a150-ef69-40dc-922e-f11e60a7716)

**Recommended Reading**


**Tuesday: Conscience, Natural Law, Norms and Associated Moral Principles**

**Required Reading:**

Bretzke, *Morally Complex World*, Chs. 2, 4, 6


Lawler, Michael, and Salzman, Todd. “Following Faithfully: The Catholic Way to Choose the Good.” *America* 2 February 2015 Available on *Canvas* and online at [http://americamagazine.org/issue/following-faithfully](http://americamagazine.org/issue/following-faithfully) [link verified March 6, 2016]

by Charles E. Curran and Richard A. McCormick, S.J. Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1991. [12 pages] Also found at the following URL:
http://newadvent.org/summa/2094.htm [link verified March 6, 2016]

_____. Summa Theologiae I-II, Question 1, Article 3 “Whether human acts are specified by their end?” [2 pages] http://newadvent.org/summa/2001.htm#article3 [link verified March 6, 2016]

Recommended Reading


Recommended Viewing

Part One: Natural Law & Intrinsic Evil Power Point Presentation (with narration):
https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=4393ebca-ce6d-4a6a-b345-56753b4464ea

Part Two: Natural Law & Intrinsic Evil Power Point Presentation (with narration):
https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=2c976c4b-6cad-46b0-b4ae-f72ded89a433

Part Three: Natural Law & Intrinsic Evil Power Point Presentation (with narration):
https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=994ea429-40be-4372-9068-fc9a9de71af7

Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience Power Point https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/CatholicMoralTheologyOfConscience.ppsx

Optional viewing to accompany Chapter 4:
Part 1: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration): https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=16eda080-4028-4e18-b92d-d0b30e49b400


Part 3: Catholic Moral Theology of Conscience (with narration): https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3d4bf171-041a-45d2-a0c2-ddf87a85044c


In-Class Exercise: Sample Case Study Analysis and Presentation

Wednesday: Scripture in Ethics, Virtue, Sin, Moral Failure, Mercy and Reconciliation

Required Reading:

Bretzke, Morally Complex World, Chs, 3, 7


Lumen gentium “Ch. 5. The Universal Call to Holiness” #39-42. Available online at http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html [link verified March 6, 2016]


Uwineza, a Rwandan Jesuit and doctoral student in theology at Boston College, reflects on the Christian response to that tragedy of genocide in light of the Christian virtue of hope and the mandate of forgiveness.
**Recommended Reading**


**Recommended Viewing**

*Decoding 1 Corinthians 6:9* [https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/Decoding1Corinthians6.ppsx](https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/Decoding1Corinthians6.ppsx)


*Core Concepts in Cross-Cultural Perspectives* Power Point Presentation found on Canvas and at [https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3ad8198b-4474-45e6-8250-dbd4da069a1d](https://bc.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3ad8198b-4474-45e6-8250-dbd4da069a1d)

**Thursday: Magisterium and Responses to Moral Authority in the Church**

**Required Reading:**

Bretzke, “Magisterial Exegesis Guidelines” (file available on Canvas and at [https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/MagisterialExegesis.pdf](https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/MagisterialExegesis.pdf))

Wilson, George. “It’s Nothing Personal: The History of Papal Infallibility.”  
Commonweal (12 February 2016): 17-20. Available on Canvas and at 
https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/its-nothing-personal

**Recommended Reading**

Sklba, Bishop Richard J. "Theological Diversity and Dissent within the Church." In 
Shepherds Speak: American Bishops Confront the Social and Moral Issues that 
Challenge Christians Today, 20-33. Edited by Dennis M. Corrado and James F. 

**Week 2: Moral Dimensions in Relational and Sexual Ethics**

**Monday: Historical Overview of Roman Catholic Sexual Ethics**

**Required Reading**

Cahill, Lisa Sowle. "Catholic Sexual Ethics and the Dignity of the Person: A Double 

Gaudium et spes #47-52. Available online at 
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-
ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html

Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of Love in 
the Family, Ch.8 
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-
francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html

**Recommended Reading**

**Tuesday: Controversies over Regulation of Birth Questions**

**Required Reading**

Robert Blair Kaiser, The Encyclical That Never Was: The Story of the Pontifical 

Paul VI, Pope. Humanae vitae (Encyclical Letter on the Regulation of Births). 25 July 
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-
vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html [link verified March 6, 2016]
Recommended Reading


Wednesday: Controversies over Sexual Identity, Orientation and Same-Sex Issues

Required and/or Recommended Reading: TBD (This section most likely will involve short readings from contemporary news items and/or shorter articles from academic journals. Student suggestions are most welcome!)

Thursday: Controversies over Abortion and Women’s Flourishing


Required Reading:


Recommended Reading


Steinfelds, Peter. “Beyond the Stalemate Forty Years after ‘Roe’” Commonweal 14 June 2013 (print version; 3 June 2013 online version: http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/beyond-stalemate ; See also the follow-up Letters to the Editor responding to the article, along with the author’s own response to the responses is found in the 16 August 2013 print edition, and posted online on 5 August 2013 at http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/letters-abortion-stalemate-authors-reply

Week 3: Moral Dimensions in Health Care, Bioethics and Faith in Politics

Monday Bioethical Dilemmas in Difficult Pregnancies

Required Reading


Recommended Reading

The Phoenix Case Not Heard Moral Triangle Power Point Presentation
https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/PhoenixCaseNotHeardMoralTriangle.ppsx
For bibliography on this case see https://www2.bc.edu/james-bretzke/PhoenixAbortionBibliography.pdf

Tuesday End-of-Life Decisions and Health Care Ethics

Required Reading Please read these in the chronological order listed below


Recommended Reading


Wednesday Contested Issues in Health Care and Biomedical Research
Required Reading


Recommended Reading


Thursday Faithful Citizenship and Contested Issues in the Political Arena

Required Reading


Recommended Reading


Kaveny, M. Cathleen. “Catholics as Citizens.” America (1 November 2010): 13-16. [3 pages] Also available online at
http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=12531 [link verified March 6, 2016]


USCCB Faithful Citizenship Quiz http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/all-catholics/faithful-citizenship-quiz-questions.cfm [link verified March 6, 2016]

**Post-Class Final Assignment: Choose one of Three Options**

These three options for the final assignment will be explained fully in the first class session. The Final Assignment is due on Canvas the Monday after class ends (August 8, 2016).

**OPTION 1: EXTENDED BOOK REVIEW:** Read one extra book related to the Course themes from the list below, and then to do a c. 10-page paper relating and analyzing that book’s materials to the appropriate themes in the course.

**Book Choices for Option 1**

Choose ONE [1] of these books to read and incorporate in a final essay on the course themes due after the conclusion of the course. *With the professor’s advance permission* another book may be substituted for this assignment.


**OPTION 2: STATUS QUAEestioNis/questiO Disputata** is to take one of the concrete issues currently being disputed in the Church or among moral theologians and analyze the arguments and evidence in the contrasting positions before giving your own position. Examples of these will be provided in the first few days of class. The Final Option will be due after the course ends.

**OPTION 3 BIOETHICS MOVIE CASE ANALYSIS:** View at least one (1) of the following movies (available on in the O’Neill Library Media Center OR personal loan from the professor): “Lorenzo’s Oil,” “Steel Magnolias,” “My Sister’s Keeper,” “Wit.” If available, the scripts will be posted on *Canvas* and/or from the Professor, but they are NOT required reading for this assignment. Then, in an essay of no more than 15 (fifteen) pages discuss one or more of the principal bioethical issues that arose in your chosen film.

**Movie Choices for Option 3:** N.B., another movie may be substituted here with *advance* approval of the instructor. To qualify the movie must present a realistic story-line that has a contemporary bioethical dilemma (i.e., a complex case with no clear-cut “black and white,” or “right and wrong” solution clearly evident from the start. E.g., *Gattica,* for all of its merits, would *not* qualify for this assignment. Movies that *do* qualify include the following:

“Lorenzo’s Oil” 2 hrs., 16 minutes, directed by George Miller and starring Nick Nolte and Susan Sarandon who play the parents of Lorenzo Odone in this true story of a young boy with an incurable disease (ALD). The Odones go to great lengths to obtain the best, experimental care for their son, and in so doing make great contributions to the treatment protocols for this hereditary disease. The trailer can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxkylRxJxh8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxkylRxJxh8) and the full movie at various streaming sites (if you find a genuinely “free” site please let the instructor know)
“Steel Magnolias” 118 minutes, film version of Robert Harling’s 1987 play, directed here by Herbert Ross and starring Sally Fields, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Dolly Parton, Daryl Hannah, and Olympia Dukakis. Fields plays M’Lynn, mother to Shelby (Julia Roberts), who donates a kidney to Shelby when her own kidneys fail after the birth of her child. The film looks at the complex issues regarding family relationships and medical decisions in very difficult situations. The trailer can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2IGgZgWj0k and the full movie at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnbVttjoPgQ

“Wit” 99 minutes, Emma Thompson, directed by Mike Nichols, after a play by Margaret Edson (ISBN 0-8222-1704-X). Professor Vivian Bearing (Thompson) is a renowned scholar of the poetry of John Donne (“Death Be Not Proud”) and has been diagnosed with incurable ovarian cancer. She undergoes a very aggressive experimental research program of chemotherapy led by Dr. Harvey Kelekian, assisted by his research fellow, Dr. Jacob Posner (a former student of Bearing’s). Bearing is cared for by Susie Monahan, R.N. and develops a relationship with her that helps support her in her last illness. The trailer can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bROGmi93prk and the full movie is also available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0PPvYIGqL8

“My Sister’s Keeper” 2009 film based on the novel of the same name by Jodi Picoult, revolving around a younger sibling has been conceived by in-vitro fertilization to provide a bone marrow transplant to her older sister suffering from leukemia. For more on the movie see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Sister%27s_Keeper_(film). The trailer can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP4NxUFgFrs and the full film is also available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK67apbTQoo

A movie script (not required to be read!) can be found at http://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/movie_script.php?movie=my-sisters-keeper