

TH 654

Medicine and Morality: Christian Tradition and the Changing Shape of Curing and Caring (CONNECT Module Four)

Schedule: January 19-20, February 16-17, and March 15-16, 2024.

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| Faculty: | Joel James Shuman, PhD, MTS, (PT) Professor of Theology King's College Wilkes-Barre, PA joelshuman@kings.edu | Brian Volck, MD, MFA, MA Writer and Pediatrician Baltimore, MD brian.volck@gmail.com |
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Description: According to Plato, “the goal of medicine is not the good of medicine, but the good of the body.” In this course we’ll explore what it means for modern scientific medicine to pursue the “good of the body” and ask what difference a Christian account of the body and its goods might make in how medicine is practiced and used. We’ll attend especially to the ways the Christian practice and use of medicine might lead us to think about some of the common moral questions attending contemporary medicine.

Reading: In addition to the books listed here, there will be several chapter or article-length readings posted to the Course Canvas page. Readings will total about 800 pages.

- Allen Verhey, *Reading the Bible in the Strange World of Medicine* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003). ISBN: 978-0802822635. \$24.27 (paper). 200 pages. ¹
- Joel Shuman and Brian Volck, *Reclaiming the Body: Christians and the Faithful Use of Modern Medicine* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006). ISBN: 978-1587431272. \$25.00 (paper). 174 pages.
- Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich and Other Stories*, Lynn Solotaroff, translator (New York: Bantam Dell, 1981). ISBN: 978-0553210354. \$6.95 (paper). 128 pages. ²

Writing: You will write two essays of 1200-1500 words in response to prompts that will be given in the syllabus and posted on Canvas.

Other Assignments: You will participate in a group project culminating in a presentation to the class on the final day of the course.

¹ You should already have this book, since we used it in module one.

² Other translations of this book are acceptable. Keep in mind that the pagination will likely vary.