

# Ethics Summer 2020 – Revised June 1, 2020

## **ETH.HMS.PHIL.REL 096-010 Bioethics and Covid-19 Pandemic** Summer Session 2 ONLINE, 4 credits

*Professor Davis* CRN 21726

This unprecedented epidemic raises many serious ethical problems. What can we expect of healthcare workers? How can we make difficult decisions when more people need ventilators than we have ventilators to go around? How can we balance the pain of a wounded economy with the pain of a health crisis? What are the responsibilities of ordinary citizens to attempt to stay healthy? This class will look at these and other questions while also investigating the underlying ethical theories of justice and fairness. Class evaluation will depend on papers and class participation.

## **ETH.HMS.PHIL.REL 116-011 Bioethics** Summer Session 2 ONLINE, 4 credits

*Professor Schmidt* CRN 21662 HU

## **ETH.HMS.SOAN 120-010 Values and Ethics in Community Research** Summer Session 2 ONLINE,

4 credits; *Professor Stanlick Kimball* CRN 21552 SS

## **ETH.ENGL 191-010 Disaster Film Ethics** Summer Session 1 ONLINE, 4 credits

*Professor Keetley* CRN 21543 HU

Disaster films have been an enduring genre, especially in the US. In this course, we'll watch the most important disaster films from the 1940s to the present, exploring the ethical frameworks embedded in them. What kinds of causes do disaster films propose for catastrophe? Who or what is responsible? Who survives and why? Is ability or inherited privilege of some kind of most importance when it comes to survival? How can humanity outlast or even avert catastrophe? How have the disasters imagined by the film industry changed as global warming becomes an increasing reality? We'll start with Alfred Hitchcock's *Lifeboat* (1944) and then move on to such films as: *The Poseidon Adventure* (1972); *The Towering Inferno* (1974); *Twister* (1996); *Armageddon* (1998); *The Perfect Storm* (2000); *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004); *Snakes on a Plane* (2006); *2012* (2009); *The Impossible* (2012); *Geostorm* (2017); *Crawl* (2019); and *Parasite* (2019). We will analyze these films through various theories of "lifeboat ethics", which will help us think about how these films decide who lives and who dies.

## **ETH.ENGL 191-015 More Money, More Problems: Exploring (In)Justice in Popular Fiction** Summer Session 2 ONLINE, 4

credits; *Professor Heidebrink-Bruno* CRN 21568 HU

As the world faces the largest wealth inequalities in history, it is important to take stock of how we got here. This class will use a variety of popular film, short fiction, and poetry to investigate economic injustice from the Great Depression of the 1930s to the Financial Crisis of 2008. We will engage in ethical discussions about historical models of capitalism with a particular focus on its financial and managerial systems, emphasizing the various ways in which money gains value and power. Much of the literature will focus on the human dimensions of the economy, but we will also learn about a variety of financial instruments and corporate technologies of power and control. We will identify specific strikebreaking techniques, analyze labor speed-up technologies, demystify stock-market manipulation strategies, and question the emerging legal recognition of corporate personhood, both as they appear in literature and as they operate in the real world. With the aim of broadening our understanding about the inner workings of our current economic system, this class will introduce these deliberately obscure financial practices in ways that makes sense to students of any and all disciplines. Moreover, this class will provide crucial historical context concerning American capitalism by highlighting new economic systems as they emerge in the latter half of the twentieth century. Finally, as a humanities course, students will be asked to think about capitalism not only as an economic system, but a dynamic social and political project as well, constantly adapting its form in response to historical situations. By the end of the course, students will discover how the powerful legacy of 20th century capitalism has shaped our economic beliefs, and the impact this has on the ways we think about economic (in) justice today.

## **ETH.COMM 197-010 Media Ethics in the Movies** Summer Session 2 ONLINE, 4 credit

*Professor Olson* CRN 21544 HU

This course explores issues of media ethics as dramatized in Hollywood movies, using films as case studies to examine issues such as the use of whistleblowers as anonymous sources, deception and undercover reporting, fabrication and staging of news, and conflicts of interest. Ethics in documentary filmmaking will also be explored. No prior coursework in ethics is required.