

[Required Texts](#) | [Course Description](#) | [Learning Outcomes](#) | [Instructional Methods](#) | [Course Schedule](#) | [Pearson LearningStudio \(eCollege\)](#) | [Campus Resources](#) | [TCU Mission](#)

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This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the course, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

### **MALA 61023: The Abortion Debate (Syllabus)**

**Semester/Year:** Fall 2016

**Class location:** online

**Class Meeting time(s):** Aug. 22 to Dec. 18

**Instructor Name:** Charles Bellinger, Assoc. Prof. of Theology and Ethics (Brite Divinity School)

**Office:** Library

**Telephone:** 817-257-7668

**Email:** [c.bellinger@tcu.edu](mailto:c.bellinger@tcu.edu)

**Office hours:** by appointment



### **Required texts and additional resources**

Dyer, Justin Buckley. *Slavery, Abortion, and the Politics of Constitutional Meaning*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-1107680746

Meyers, Chris. *The Fetal Position: A Rational Approach to the Abortion Issue*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-1591027683

\*these are list prices; books can often be obtained for less through various vendors.

There will be additional online readings provided by the instructor.

This book is optional: Bellinger, Charles K., ed. *The Abortion Debate: TCU Voices*. Fort Worth: Churchyard Books, 2012.

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## Course Description

Abortion has been a highly controversial subject in American culture since the 1960s, and it will likely remain so for the foreseeable future. This course will examine this complex issue from various angles: medical, psychological, philosophical, legal, and religious.

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## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- analyze and critique essays about abortion that illumine the legal, philosophical, psychological, cultural, or religious dimensions of the issue.
- summarize accurately the arguments of others who hold different views than they do.
- formulate their own views on the morality and legality of abortion in a manner that demonstrates their reflective response to certain key essays on abortion, which they have read.
- MLA Program Outcome: “Students will develop and execute their ideas of the intellectual connections of major and global issues by relating these issues to one another on a comparative cultural basis using research, analysis, and writing.”

[top](#)

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## Instructional Methods

### Course procedures:

1. Online discussions of essays, books, and web sites.

### Requirements and grading:

1. Online participation (75%). Students will post responses to the reading assignments 2-4 days each week. Participation will receive a letter grade each week. Higher grades will be earned through demonstrating the ability to understand the reading assignments accurately and respond to their arguments in a substantive way. Being able to dialogue with other students in the class respectfully and with maturity will be valued, but the grading will focus more on the responses to the readings.
2. Position paper (25%). (10-12 pages; research beyond the course assignments is not required or expected)

[top](#)

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## Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege)

- If you have not yet taken the Student Tutorial, please exit this course and do so immediately. Once you have finished, return to this course and continue. The Student tutorial is listed on your personal student homepage. To access it, click on "Exit Course" at the bottom of this page. Then click on the "Student Tutorial" on your home page. Follow the instructions.
- If you experience any technical problems during your usage of this online course, please do not hesitate to contact the HELP DESK (at Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) ). They can be reached by phone or by email 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

email: [helpdesk@tcuglobal.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tcuglobal.edu) phone: **1-800-826-1665**

For questions about logging into Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) visit the online video:

<http://www.elearning.tcu.edu/resources/howtologinvideo/howtologinvideo.asp>

If, however, you have a course related issue (course content, assignment troubles, quiz difficulties) please contact the professor during office hours by phone or (preferably) by email.

[top](#)

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## TCU Campus Resources for Students

**\*\*TCU Campus Resources for Students:** Many resources exist on the TCU campus that may be helpful to students: Mary Couets Burnett Library (257-7117); Center for Academic Services (257-7486, Sadler Hall. 1022); the William L. Adams Writing Center (257-7221, Reed Hall 419); Student Development Services (257-7855, BLUU 2003); and Office of Religious & Spiritual Life (257-7830, Jarvis Hall), Campus Life (257-7926, Sadler Hall 2006), and the Counseling, Testing, and Mental Health Center (257-7863, Brown Lupton Health Center).

**\*\*Email Notification:** Only the official TCU student email address will be used for all course notification. It is your responsibility to check your TCU email on a regular basis.

[top](#)

## **TCU Mission**

*To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community*

[top](#)

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