

Teaching Outline: Theological Ethics of Abortion

I. What is the nature of women's/pregnant persons' reproductive moral authority?

Peters, Motherhood as Moral Choice

takes a relational approach to understanding the pregnant person's moral obligations to the prelate

Shaikh, Family Planning, Contraception and Abortion in Islam

makes the case for gender justice regarding women's roles and reproductive burdens

Bond, A Womanist Theo-Ethic of Reproductive Justice

proposes an ethics of sexuality and abortion based on the principles of reproductive justice

Barilan, Her Pain Prevails and Her Judgment Respected—Abortion in Judaism

specifies when the pregnant woman's life must be given precedence above that of her fetus

II. How should we understand fetal personhood?

Eberl, Aquinas's Account of Human Embryogenesis and Recent Interpretations

how the fetal personhood issue is discussed in by scholars of Thomas Aquinas

Ford, 'The Human Embryo as Person in Catholic Teaching

discusses Catholic abortion teachings with a focus on papal documents

Aramesh, Shiite Perspective on the Moral Status of the Early Human Embryo

views of embryology and fetal ensoulment in Shiite Islam

III. When is abortion permitted or is it always a sin?

Kraemer, Jewish Ethics and Abortion

compares halachists' definitive conclusions to ethicists' view on the moral complexity of abortion

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, For the Life of the World: Toward a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church

affirms fetal personhood from conception but also allows abortion to save a woman's life

Kamitsuka, Contesting Abortion as Sin

gives reasons against seeing abortion as ipso facto sin.

IV. How are normative sources used in abortion ethics?

Davis, Abortion in Jewish Thought: A Study in Casuistry
discusses the impact of the lack of female voices in rabbinic debates on abortion

Ward, The Use of the Bible in the Abortion Debate
examines how key biblical texts have been misinterpreted to support a prolife position

Al-Matary and Ali. 2014. Controversies and Considerations Regarding the Termination of Pregnancy for Foetal Anomalies in Islam
summarizes the position on pregnancy termination in the four Sunni schools of thought