

**Bioethics**

Code: 43834  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4316227 Applied Philosophy	OB	0	1

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

**Contact**

Name: Irene Gómez Franco  
Email: Irene.Gomez.Franco@uab.cat

**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

**External teachers**

Anna Quintanas

**Prerequisites**

It is recommended that the students have some previous knowledge of English and French, to be able to read some of the bibliographical sources.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

Bioethics is the discipline that, applying a reasoned ethical perspective, deals with problems related to life - human life and well-being, but also other forms of life such as non-human animals.

This module will analyse current issues and controversies in bioethics from a widened perspective.

Firstly, a historical-conceptual map will be drawn up, followed by an examination of issues related to birth and death, social justice, the rights of the unborn and future generations, the relationship between biopolitics and bioethics, and global health.

The ultimate aim is for students to reflect on 'what we owe to each other', on the concept of the person and its link to democracy in plural societies, and on the bioethical challenges to life and death posed by the advances of technoscience and the structure of human action in the so-called 'Anthropocene' era.

**Competences**

- Analyze critically and synthesize information obtained from an article or a specialized monograph, and from quality information distributed on the web.
- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
- Critically assess the implications on the human condition of new ideological, political, economic and technological forms that impact on the contemporary world.

- Identify and describe the relevant theoretical elements in contemporary ethical research, especially those associated with the question of good, justice and their political implications.
- Reconstruct and analyze critically the positions of the main current researchers in the field of philosophy of each of the main subject areas of the masters degree (science, art, politics) using their characteristic categories and lexis.
- Solve problems in new or little-known situations within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze critically and synthesize information obtained from an article or a specialized monograph, and from quality information distributed on the web.
2. Apply bioethics terminology to problem areas in the regulation of ecology and patient-care ethics.
3. Apply ethical theories to problem areas in the field of the environment and sustainability.
4. Apply ethical theories to the contexts of advances in biotechnology and public health policies.
5. Apply the theoretical content of contemporary ethics to biomedical, clinical and patient-care problem areas.
6. Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
7. Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
8. Solve problems in new or little-known situations within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.

## Content

1. Introduction to bioethics
2. Bioethics and social justice
3. The rights of future generations
4. The Non-Identity Problem and the notion of harm
5. Biomedical ethics or global bioethics?
6. The biopolitical background of bioethics
7. The growing medicalisation of life
8. The imperative of health and neoliberal rule

## Methodology

The module is structured in 10 sessions of 3½ hours.

The sessions will count with a lecture part and a participative seminar format. Students take an active part both with their presence and their participation; in the seminar format, students will work following the methodology of practical case studies.

The professors will monitor the development of the module assignments during the tutoring and the face-to-face classes.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures and seminars	35	1.4	1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 6, 7

Type: Supervised

Tutoring	17	0.68	1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 6, 7
----------	----	------	------------------------

Type: Autonomous

Reading, analysing and researching	66	2.64	1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 6, 7
------------------------------------	----	------	------------------------

## Assessment

The evaluation takes the form of continuous assessment and contains three elements: a) the oral presentation of a subject (40% of the final grade), b) the written presentation of a work (40%) and c) active participation in seminars and debates (20% rest). The oral presentation will be on a subject of the first part of the course (1-4) The written work will be on the rest of the course's contents (5-8). Participation will be evaluated by the two professors conjunctly. Each professor will mark a date and place for the review of the results of the assignment evaluations. There will also be a 'second-chance' examination date that will be agreed with the Faculty.

In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Oral presentation of a topic	40%	13	0.52	1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 6, 7
Seminar and debate participation	20%	6	0.24	1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 6, 7
Written assignment	40%	13	0.52	1, 5, 2, 3, 4, 8, 6, 7

## Bibliography

At the beginning of the course, a more extended and detailed bibliography will be provided.

Basic bibliography:

ÁVILA, I. D. (comp.), *La cuestión animal(ista)*, Ediciones desde Abajo, Bogotá, 2016.

BEISTEGUI, M. i altres, *The Care of Life. Transdisciplinary Perspectives in Bioethics and Biopolitics*, Rowman and Littlefield, London, 2015.

CAMFIC (Societat Catalana de Medicina Familiar i Comunitària), *Malalts de salut? Reflexions al voltant de les noves demandes i les respostes del sistema sanitari*, vol. 24, Suplement 1, 2on trimestre 2006.

CBC (Comité de Bioética de Catalunya), *La qualitat en els comitès d'ètica assistencial*, Barcelona, 2013.

CCBC (Comitè Consultiu de Bioètica de Catalunya), *Jornada de debat. La medicalització creixent de la vida*, Generalitat de Catalunya, Departament de Salut, 2007.

DOVE, E. S. i altres, "Beyond individualism: is there a place for relational autonomy in clinical practice and research?", *Clinical Ethics*, 2017, pp. 1-16.

GÓMEZ, I., *Deudas pendientes*, CSIC - Plaza y Valdés, Madrid, 2020.

LECAROS, J. A., "Ecological ethics: the road of responsibility towards global bioethics", *Ramon Llull Journal*, nº 4, 2013, pp. 201-215.

LÓPEZ DE LA VIEJA, M<sup>a</sup>. T., "Bioética feminista", *Dilemata*, año 6, nº 15, 2014, pp. 143-152.

MARSICO, G., *Bioética: voces de mujeres*, Narcea S. A. Ediciones, Madrid, 2003.

PARFIT, D., *Reasons and Persons*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1987.

PICHOT, A., *La société pure. De Darwin à Hitler*, Flammarion, París, 2000.

QUINTANAS, A. (ed.), *El trasfondo biopolítico dela bioética*, Documenta Universitaria, Girona, 2013.

ROSE, N., *Politics of life itself: biomedicine, power and subjectivity in the twenty-first century*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 2006.

SAVULESCU, J., *¿Decisiones peligrosas?*, Madrid: Tecnos, 2012.

SANDEL, M., *Contra la perfección*, Barcelona: Marbot, 2007.

VALLS-LLOVET, C., *Mujeres, salud y poder*, Ediciones Cátedra, Madrid, 2016.

V.A.V.A., *Bioética y feminismo. Estudios multidisciplinares de género*, Ediciones Universidad de Salamanca, Salamanca, 2006.

WILKINSON, R. y PICKETT, K., *Desigualdad. Un análisis de la (in)felicidad colectiva*, Madrid: Turner, 2009.

WILLIAMS, L., "Human ecology, bio-ethics and Human rights in the anthropocene", *Studia Bioethica*, vol. 8, nº 2, 2015, pp. 25-35.

## **Software**

Not applicable.