

Ethics of Contemporary Challenges

Code: 106234
ECTS Credits: 6

2024/2025

Degree	Type	Year
2504235 Science, Technology and Humanities	OB	2

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

There are none.

Objectives and Contextualisation

At the end of the course students should achieve the following objectives:

- Identify, analyze and critically evaluate problems derived from the scientific and technological activity as well as its relevant moral, ecological and social issues.
- Communicate in an effective way, both oral and written, the result of the analysis of the ecological, ethical and social dimensions of science and Technology (of both its research and development, and its applications).
- Know the main moral challenges associated to research, the use and the consequences of science and technology in our contemporary societies.

Competences

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Apply knowledge of ethics to science in society and gauge the impact of technological change on people and the human condition.

- Develop and evaluate interdisciplinary projects that combine scientific, technological and humanistic knowledge and encourage citizens' involvement in matters related to science and technology in society.
- Explain the basic concepts related to life, its origin and evolution, especially those referring to health and illness throughout history.
- Innovate in the methods and processes of this area of knowledge in response to the needs and wishes of society.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Work collaboratively in teams.

Learning Outcomes

1. Assess possible alternatives to animal experimentation.
2. Critically evaluate different ethical challenges in today's world.
3. Develop projects on the ethics of contemporary science and technology.
4. Identify the functions of research ethics committees.
5. Intervene in debates on ethical dilemmas associated with scientific developments.
6. Know the basic principles of risk management.
7. Know the biophysical limits of planet Earth.
8. Know the concept of transhumanism.
9. Know the directives on personal data protection.
10. Know the principles of environmental (principle of precaution, etc.).
11. Present reports on ethical dilemmas associated with specific scientific developments.
12. Produce papers as part of a group.

Content

1. Fundamentals: environmental ethics and Third Culture
2. Bioethical Issues
3. Needs, capabilities and basic goods (in a finite planet)
4. Moral and political challenges of transhumanism
5. Moral challenges of scientific-technological research (robotics and AI)
6. Moral challenges of biomedical research (genomic edition, transhumanism)

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Learning exercises	16	0.64	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12
Lectures	33	1.32	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Type: Supervised			
Essay supervision	4.25	0.17	1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11

Type: Autonomous

Bibliographic research	20	0.8	1, 3, 7, 8, 10
Personal study	33	1.32	7, 8, 10
Work on presentation	6.25	0.25	3, 5, 11, 12
Writing of essay	35	1.4	2, 7, 8, 11

Lectures.

Text discussion seminars.

Team work and oral presentations.

Individual written essay.

Exam.

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.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Essay	30%	0	0	2, 7, 8, 11
Exam	30%	2	0.08	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Participation	10%	0	0	12
Presentation	30%	0.5	0.02	3, 5, 11, 12

Oral presentation of team work and assessable ppt.

Individual written essay on assigned topic.

Exam.

Participation.

There will be a reevaluation exam. To be reevaluated, the student must have been evaluated in a set of activities whose weight equals to a minimum of two thirds of the total grade of the subject (continuous evaluation) or have completed all the required assessment activities (single assessment). The student will be deemed Not evaluable if he/she has not submitted at least 30% of the assessment activities.

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.

Single assessment

This subject does not incorporate single assessment.

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Software

None required.

Language list

Information on the teaching languages can be checked on the CONTENTS section of the guide.