UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Bioethics

2122-3-A5810106

Learning objectives

The course aims at equipping students with theoretical instruments for analysis and argumentation useful to understand the different ethical-legal questions arising in the various bioethical fields. In so doing, law students will learn to correctly elaborate legal reports, provide ethical-legal counselling, and write well argued opinions in bioethical issues in their future careers. Students will be asked to analyse both relevant court decisions concerning ethical issues as well as to learn how to deal with selected ethical cases.

Contents

Bioethics deals with ethical-legal questions arising from interventions of biomedicine and biotechnology on humans, animals, and environment. This field includes a variety of topics. The 'traditional issues' in Bioethics range from end-of-life to reproductive technology, whereas the 'frontier issues' in Bioethics concern developments in Artificial Intelligence and Human Enhancement. Constitutive feature of the bioethical reflection is the Biolaw's perspective. The course aims at equipping law students with theoretical tools, understanding, knowledge, and skills to critically assess the legal framework at the national and European level as well as the current or future models of regulation in Biolaw.

Detailed program

The course will deal with traditional issues like end-of-life issues (withdrawing and withholding treatment, euthanasia, assisted suicide), beginning of life issues (assisted procreation, abortion, surrogacy), clinical research, genetic technologies (genetic testing and gene editing) etc. In addition, further frontier issues will be analysed, including human enhancement, robotics, and IA.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

E-learning platform

-Use of powerpoint presentations

-Anlysis of the ethical-legal debate and of the international, European, and national framework concerning ethically sensitive issues.

-Analysis of relevant court decisions and discussion of ethical cases

Lectures will be in presence and for those students who cannot attend streaming will be granted in order to allow direct online participation

The link to streaming will be published before the beginning of the course on the e-learning platform.

Assessment methods

Oral exam

Upon express request from Erasmus students to be communicated to the teacher (silvia.salardi@unimib.it) the exam can be held in English

Textbooks and Reading Materials

TEXTBOOKS FOR ATTENDING STUDENTS:

The exam requires knowledge of those topics discussed during the course, of some selected legal documents and of some selected sections of the following books: P. BORSELLINO, Bioetica tra “morali” e diritto, Raffaello Cortina, Milano, 2018; Silvia Salardi, Lo sport come diritto umano nell'era del post-umano, Giappichelli, 2019.

It is required the knowledge of the Italian Code of Medical Ethics

TEXTBOOKS FOR NOT ATTENDING STUDENTS:

-P. BORSELLINO, Bioetica tra “morali” e diritto, Raffaello Cortina, Milano, 2018

And in addition one of the following books:

-S. SALARDI, Lo sport come diritto umano nell'era del post-umano, Giappichelli, Torino, 2019

-S. SALARDI, Test genetici tra determinismo e libertà, Giappichelli, Torino, 2010