UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Bioetica

2425-3-A5810106

Learning objectives

Bioethics is a relatively recent discipline, originated to reflect on ethical-legal issues arising from scientific and technological advances in biomedicine, according to a interdisciplinary approach.
The course aims at equipping legal students and all interested participants with theoretical instruments for conceptual analysis and rational 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

The course will deal with ethical-legal questions related to *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) as well as to *frontier* issues like gene editing, human enhancement, robotics, and IA in medicine and scientific research, as well as neurotechnological advances.
The course language is Italian.

Detailed program

Bioethics is an interdisciplinary discipline dealing with ethical-legal questions arising from interventions of biomedicine, biotechnology, and neurotechnology on humans, animals, and environment.
The purpose of this discipline is to clear up the ethical-philosophical assumptions and the legal implications of

scientific and technological innovation. The reflection on legal solutions for bioethical issues is considered a constitutive part of bioethics, which therefore includes biolaw. The course addresses law students, but it is open to all intereted participants.

Bioethics and biolaw include a variety of topics. The 'traditional issues' in Bioethics range from end-of-life, reproductive technology, human and animal experimentation, to data protection. 'Frontier issues' in Bioethics concern developments in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, and Human Enhancement. The course aims at equipping law students and other interested participants 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.

The course language is Italian.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

The didactic activity will consist of frontal lecture and a given number of interactive lectures where concrete cases will be discussed in class. The material for discussion will be made available in advance on the e-learning platform. Some frontal lectures will be enriched with seminars from national and international experts of bioethical and biolegal questions.

Tools used for teaching:

-E-learning platform

-Use of powerpoint presentations

-Ethical cases

Assessment methods

Oral exam

Assessment criteria will include: knowledge of the contents of the course. Assessment will include evaluation of the ability to relate arguments, critical-thinking and the technical-linguistic quality

During the course there will be the possibility to take part in two self-evaluation multiple choice tests, online.
Students who achieve the max. score in both tests can take part in a final online test, consisting of an ethical case for a max. score of 10 points.
Dates of the tests will be communicated at the beginning of the course.
Assessment criteria:
-for the self-evaluation tests evaluation will concern theoretical knowledge and reasoning ability.
-for the case analysis, evaluation will include ability of applying theoretical-argumentative tools to solve a concrete case. Focus of evaluation will therefore be ability of critical analysis, of linking theory and practice, and technical-linguistic quality. Max. score 10 points.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

TEXTBOOKS FOR PREPARING THE EXAM

-E-learning material to be integrated with

-P. BORSELLINO, Bioetica tra "morali" e diritto, Raffaello Cortina, Milano, 2018, chapters 1,2,3,4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12

-S. SALARDI, Intelligenza artificiale e semantica del cambiamento: una lettura critica, 2023, chapter 4

-S. SALARDI, Neurotecnologie tra potere e libertà. Medicina, etica, discriminazioni di genere, 2024

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS