UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Bioethics

2526-3-A5810106

Learning objectives

The course in Bioethics and Biolaw 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 from scientific and technological advances applied in biomedicine, following an interdisciplinary approach.

In particular, at the end of the course the student should have acquired:

-Knowledge and understanding of the ethical-legal problems arising from new technologies and scientific advances in the biomedical context
-Ability to analyse ethical cases, to elaborate short opinions concerning ethically complex questions and identify possible legal solutions
-Critical thinking concerning interpretation of basic bioethical principles and identification of legal appropriate solutions
-Ability to present and discuss ethical-legal arguments, both in written and oral form
-Ability of self-learning, through consultation of opinions, guidelines, legal sources, legal doctrine, and jurisprudence as elaborated by institutions at the national, European, and international level.

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 course will address both 'traditional issues' ranging from end-of-life, reproductive technology, human and animal experimentation, to data protection and 'frontier issues' concerning developments in Gene Editing, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Human Enhancement, and Neurotechnology.
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 of interactive moments where concrete cases will be discussed in class. 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

Assessment criteria will include: knowledge of the contents of the course. Assessment will include evaluation of the ability to expose and relate arguments,understanding and ability to apply concepts, and the technical-linguistic quality

Textbooks and Reading Materials

TEXTBOOKS FOR PREPARING THE EXAM

-Didactic material discussed during lecture and available on the E-learning platform (slide and articles)

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

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

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

Sustainable Development Goals

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