

## Bio-ethics (A000003)

**Course size** (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

independent work  
lecture

### Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Sterckx, Sigrid

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Moral Sciences)

crdts

offering

5

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Philosophy)

5

A

Master of Arts in Moral Sciences

5

A

Master of Arts in Philosophy

5

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Bioethics, applied ethics, environmental philosophy, animal ethics, *critical disability studies*, normative theories, case studies

### Position of the course

Insight into the history of the discipline of bioethics, including debates regarding neglected topics and perspectives.

In-depth and specialised knowledge of important questions in bioethics.

Being capable of understanding and developing arguments regarding complex ethical problems in bioethics.

### Contents

Examples of topics that may be focused on (these may vary): controversies regarding consciousness, debates on the concept of 'person' and the relevance of these debates for biomedicine, moral status of embryo and foetus, *critical disability studies*, medical practices at the end of life, psychiatry and ethics, animal ethics, environmental philosophy, socio-economic contextualisation of bioethical questions, etc.

### Initial competences

Being thoroughly familiar with the main theoretical approaches in normative ethics.

Having successfully taken the BA courses 'Philosophical Ethics: Systematics' and 'Normative Ethics', or having acquired the final competences of those courses in a different way.

Thorough knowledge of Dutch and English.

### Final competences

- 1 Being able to make a structured analysis of a bioethical question.
- 2 Being capable of developing a coherent set of ethical arguments and relevant scientific elements (psychological, sociological, medical, legal research).
- 3 Being able to situate and analyse bioethical questions in a socio-economic context.
- 4 Being capable of developing a critical analysis of arguments in bioethical debates and academic publications.

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

**Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

**Teaching methods**

Lecture, Independent work

**Study material**

None

**References****Course content-related study coaching****Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment with open-ended questions

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment with open-ended questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment****Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Calculation of the examination mark****Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

1 Attendance in class is not mandatory (for any of the students).