

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 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

independent work
lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Sterckx, Sigrid

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

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

crdts

5

offering

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).