

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
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Accoe, Dorian	LW01	staff member
Mertes, Heidi	LW01	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Moral Sciences)	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, medical ethics, environmental ethics, animal ethics, *critical disability studies*, principlism, casuistry, reasoning by analogy

Position of the course

In this in-depth course unit, students apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the preceding course units of the 'Ethics and Moral Sciences' cluster on the one hand, and the competencies gained in the 'Humanities and Auxiliary Sciences' cluster on the other, to current issues in bioethics.

Specific methodologies and concepts used within bioethics are provided in this process.

In this way, students learn to conduct well-founded ethical analyses of societal issues.

Contents

- Delineation and history of bioethics as a discipline
- Methodology of bioethics (case studies, analogical reasoning, principlism, broad reflective equilibrium)
- Annually changing thematic lessons on current bioethical debates, for example regarding the beginning of life (medically assisted reproduction, abortion, research on embryos, cloning), genetics (genetic testing, genome modification), animal ethics (meat industry, animal experiments), environmental ethics (GMOs, climate change), dual-use research of concern (virology, synthetic biology), the end of life (euthanasia, palliative care, handling of deceased bodies), innovation in healthcare (AI, secondary use of personal data), ...

Initial competences

- Be thoroughly familiar with the key concepts of normative ethics.
- Be able to independently process academic literature in preparation for the lectures.
- Be able to identify, dissect, and analyze concrete ethical problems.
- Form a reasoned judgment based on philosophical insights, scholarly knowledge, and argumentation skills.

Recognize the societal relevance of ethical debates.

Final competences

- 1 Recognize the main methodologies of bioethics and be able to apply them critically.
- 2 Being able to make a structured analysis of a bioethical question.
- 3 Being capable of developing a coherent set of ethical arguments and relevant scientific elements (psychological, sociological, medical, legal,...).
- 4 Being able to situate and analyse bioethical questions in a socio-economic and cultural context.
- 5 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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Bioethical articles
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No

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

Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the course
Lectures will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be

provided