## **Bioethics**

## Prof. Alessandra Gerolin

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to a philosophical reflection on the main ethical and anthropological issues raised by the development of technologies and empirical sciences. At the end of the course, students will have learnt about the main issues of bioethics, will possess the basic conceptual tools capable of guiding them in the bioethical debate, and will have acquired an argumentative method aimed at encouraging autonomous reflection.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two parts: the first part, consisting of a brief overview of the origin of bioethics, is aimed at highlighting the intellectual frameworks within which philosophical reflection takes place: in this regard, the themes concerning the debate on secular and Catholic bioethics, on ethical pluralism and on the notion of the person will be at the centre of discussion. The second part outlines some of the most relevant problems raised by the transformations of experience produced by technologies: in this regard, attention will be placed on biotechnologies, with reference to in vitro fertilisation and end-of-life issues, also with reference to the debate on the suspension of care and on the determination of brain death or death with neurological criteria.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

Adriano Pessina, *Bioetica L’uomo sperimentale,* III Edition, Milan -Turin, Pearson 2020 (Chs. 1-2, 5-10). [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/adriano-pessina/bioetica-luomo-sperimentale-ediz-mylab-9788891913616-681717.html)

Recommended reading for further study - but not included in the examination

Adriano Pessina, *Eutanasia. Della morte e di altre cose,* Cantagalli, Siena 2007;

David Lamb, *L’etica alle frontiere della vita*, It. trad.Il Mulino, Bologna 1998;

Alessio Musio, *Baby Boom. Critica della maternità surrogata,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2021;

Alessandra Papa, *L’identità esposta. La cura come questione filosofica*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2014.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lessons with multimedia tools, open discussions, and audiovisual workshops. The course will also include the presence of scholars or specialists of the various topics covered, who will illustrate the results of their research or present their professional experience through interactive teaching.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an interview aimed at verifying and assessing: students’ learning and understanding of the topics covered in the lessons and in the textbook included in the reading list; students’ presentation and argumentative skills; their mastery of the philosophical lexicon; the ability to establish links among the various topics.

*Assessment:*

30 cum laude: excellent, solid knowledge, excellent expressive skills, complete understanding of the topics covered.

30: very good, complete and adequate knowledge, correct and well articulated expression skills.

27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, essentially correct expression skills.

24-26: fairly good but incomplete and not always correct knowledge.

21-23: generally good but superficial knowledge. Often inappropriate expression skills.

18-21: sufficient knowledge of the main issues.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since it is an introductory course, there are no particular prerequisites for attending it. However, students are expected to have interest and intellectual curiosity for philosophical reflection on concrete issues.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.

1. The textbooks specified in the reading list can be purchased at the University bookstores; they can also be purchased from other retailers. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)