Bioethics

Prof. Adriano Pessina

***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 technology and the empirical sciences. At the end of the course, students will know the main issues of bioethics, will possess the basic conceptual tools to guide them in bioethical debates, and will have acquired an argumentative method that will facilitate an autonomous path of reflection.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two parts. The first one presents a brief overview of the origin of bioethics and aims to bring the intellectual frameworks for philosophical reflection to the forefront. Crucial topics will be the debate between secular and Catholic bioethics, ethical pluralism, and the definition of human being. The second part of the course will outline some of the most significant issues that have emerged from the changes in experience due to technology. Special attention will be paid to biotechnologies – with reference to extracorporeal procreation - and to issues related to the end of life, also with reference to the debate on suspension of treatments and ascertaining brain death.

***READING LIST***

A. Pessina, *Bioetica L’uomo sperimentale*, III Edizione, Milano -Torino, Pearson 2020.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. Analysis and discussion of the course topics. Three hours a week.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral examination. Students will be tested on: 1. learning and understanding of lectures and reading list contents; 2. ability to present and discuss topics; 3. use of philosophical language; 4. ability to link various topics.

Assessments:

30 with distinction: excellent, solid knowledge, excellent ability to express themselves, complete understanding of the topics covered.

30: very good, complete and adequate knowledge, correct and well-articulated ability to express themselves.

27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, essentially correct ability to express themselves.

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

21-23: generally good but superficial knowledge; an often inappropriate way of expressing themselves.

18-21: sufficient knowledge of the main topics.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As it is introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, a degree of interest and intellectual curiosity in philosophical reflection on concrete questions is assumed.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.