# Bioethics (Second-level Degree)

## Prof. Adriano Pessina

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

The course aims to provide adequate knowledge of the main topics of bioethics and to form with a mature philosophical reflection that allows them to address also specific issues related to the profound transformations of human experience introduced by new technologies.

At the end of the course, students will have a fundamental grasp of bioethics, a critical understanding of the key issues in this area; they will be able apply independent judgement in approaching some of the complex practical and theoretical scenarios of the contemporary context. Furthermore, through in-depth analyses and class discussions about some specific issues, students will have the possibility to develop their argument skills.

***COURSE CONTENT***

In a historical period marked by the great transformations of human experience, where biotechnologies have a strong impact also on the concept of life, while the development of medicine raises new questions on the limits of treatments and the meaning of illness and suffering, what might be the contribution of philosophy? The matters arising in the context of bioethical reflection question the representation that human beings have of themselves and outline new forms of interpersonal relationships, highlighting that the link between freedom and responsibility cannot be bound only to the category of individual independence. Starting from these perspectives, the annual course will be divided into two modules, a general and a single-subject one. The general course will be focused on the definition of the epistemological status of bioethics, the delineation of the contemporary debate about the concept of person, the topics related to extracorporeal pregnancy and those related to treatment. The single-subject course will explore the concept of freedom and human planning in front of the experience of illness, suffering, and the consciousness of being mortal, with a focus on the contemporary issues related to the interruption of medical treatments, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and the so-called right to die. In front of these ethical questions, raised by specific clinical situations, the topics of the beginning and the end of life represent the test bed for philosophical knowledge.

***READING LIST***

Annual Course -

A. Pessina, *Bioetica L’uomo sperimentale,* 3rd Edition, Milan -Turin, Pearson 2020, *p. XI- 174*.

A. Musio, “*Chi è mia madre?* in A. Musio, *Baby Boom. Contro la maternità surrogata*,Vita e Pensiero 2021, *p. 9-38 and a chapter of their choice*

J.P. Sartre,  *La mia morte* e *Libertà e responsabilità in* J.P. SARTRE, *L’essere e il nulla,* Italian translation Il Saggiatore, Milan 2023, p. *605- 632.*

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

Module 1 Semester 1

A. Pessina, *Bioetica L’uomo sperimentale,* 3rd Edition, Milan -Turin, Pearson 2020.

A. Musio, “*Chi è mia madre?* in A. Musio, *Baby Boom. Contro la maternità surrogata*,Vita e Pensiero 2021 and a chapter of their choice.

Module A 2 Semester 2\*

J.P. Sartre,  *La mia morte* e *Libertà e responsabilità in* J.P. SARTRE, *L’essere e il nulla,* Italian translation Il Saggiatore, Milan 2023, p. 605- 632.

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

\*Only for those who have already taken the exam of the Bioethics annual course (second level degree) the previous year.

Further information on the reading list and the teaching material online, will be made available in class

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures. Analysis and discussion of course topics. Three hours per week.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be examined by means of an oral exam. Students must demonstrate their knowledge of the key concepts of the course, and their ability to navigate among the essential topics/issues in the texts on the reading list. Students will be assessed on the following: the relevance of their responses; the appropriate use of specific terminology; the ability to present a well-structured argument; the ability to make conceptual links and identify unresolved questions; and their use of philosophical language.

Marks:

30 with distinction: excellent, very sound knowledge, excellent expressive ability, full understanding of concepts and arguments.

30: very good, full and sufficient knowledge, accurate and well-articulated expression.

27-29: good, sufficient knowledge, generally accurate expression.

24-26: quite good knowledge, but incomplete and not always accurate.

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

18-21: sufficient knowledge of the main issues.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

All the information – on the course, the reading list, and where to find the teaching material- will be made available in class during the first lectures. Any communications, information, and teaching material will be made available on *Blackboard*, so students are invited to complete their registration on the platform. There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

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.