-. Bioethics

Prof. Annachiara Fasoli

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 technological developments, which are also relevant and significant for those working in the field of education and training.

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 and completion of each educational process.

Students will also have developed a critical understanding of the intertwining of technological transformation, human vision and moral action.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES

The course is divided into two parts: The first part is dedicated to a brief survey of the origin of bioethics. Central to such a survey will be topics dedicated to the debate on: the problematic distinction between secular bioethics and Catholic bioethics; ethical pluralism in its problematic relationship with forms of relativism; and the notion of the individual in their relationship with the notion of being human.

The second part focuses on some of the most relevant problems raised by the changed experiences brought about by technologies: on this aspect, attention will be focused in particular on issues relating to extracorporeal procreation (with attention also to the case of surrogacy) – and end-of-life problems (therapeutic abuse, euthanasia and assisted suicide). In addition, at the end of the course, a bioethical reflection on the pandemic will be proposed, in order to outline an existential interpretation of the disease during the time of no physical contact.

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

Adriano Pessina, *Bioetica. L’uomo sperimentale,* 3rd Edition, Pearson, Milan - Turin, 2020 (chaps. 1, 2, 4-9). [*Bought from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/adriano-pessina/bioetica-luomo-sperimentale-ediz-mylab-9788891913616-681717.html)

Recommended readings for in-depth analysis, but not subject to examination:

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

Alessio Musio, *Tra arresto, emergenza ed eccezione. Linee per un’etica della sovranità pandemica,* in Adriano Pessina (Ed.), *Vulnus. Persone nella pandemia,* Mimesis, Milan, 2022, pp. 41-58.

Alessandra Papa, *Scenari di crisi dell’umano e della “communitas”. Tra lutto e riparazione,* in Adriano Pessina (Ed.), *Vulnus. Persone nella pandemia,* Mimesis, Milan, 2022, pp. 59-75.

TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

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

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The examination consists of an interview aimed at ascertaining and evaluating:

* Learning and understanding the topics covered in the lectures and texts indicated in the reading list;
* the student's presentation and argumentative abilities;
* mastery of the specific terminology;
* the ability to establish links between the various topics.

Assessments:

* 30 with distinction: excellent, solid knowledge, excellent ability to express themselves, and a complete understanding of the topics covered.
* 30: very good, complete and adequate knowledge, a correct and well-articulated ability to express themselves.
* 27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, an 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

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

Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be guaranteed using methods that will be communicated in good time to students.

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

1. The texts indicated in the reading list may be purchased at the University bookstores; they may also be bought from other outlets. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)