**-. 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 the development of technologies, that can be consistent and significant also for those who work in the field of education and training.

At the end of the course, students will be able to understand the main bioethical issues, will possess the basic conceptual tools that guide them in the bioethical debate and will have acquired an argumentative method that encourages an independent reflective path, as a completion of each educational process.

Student will also develop a critical understanding of the interplay between technological transformation, man's vision, and moral action.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two parts. The first is dedicated to a brief overview of the origins of bioethics: in this regard, it will focus especially on themes concerning the debate on the problematic distinction between secular bioethics and Catholic bioethics, on ethical pluralism and its problematic relationship with forms of relativism, and on the notion of person and its relationship with the notion of human being.

The second part focuses on some of the most relevant problems raised by the transformations of experience brought about by technologies: in this regard, special attention will be paid to the problems relating to extracorporeal procreation (with attention also to the case of surrogate motherhood) - and to end-of-life issues (therapeutic obstinacy, euthanasia, and assisted suicide). Furthermore, at the end of the course, a bioethical reflection on the pandemic will be proposed, to outline an existential reading of the phenomenon of the disease in a time when physical contact becomes impossible.

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

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

**Recommended reading for further information, but not included in the 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 (edited by), *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 (edited by), *Vulnus. Persone nella pandemia,* Mimesis, Milan, 2022, pp. 59-75.

***TEACHING METHOD***

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

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an interview aimed at verifying and assessing:

* learning and understanding of the topics addressed in the lessons and the textbooks indicated in the reading list;
* students’ presentation and argumentative skills;
* command of specific terminology;
* the ability to establish connections between the various topics.

Assessments:

* 30 cum laude: excellent, solid knowledge, excellent presentation skills, complete understanding of the topics covered.
* 30: very good, complete and adequate knowledge, correct and well-articulated presentation skills.
* 27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, essentially correct presentation skills.
* 24-26: fairly good knowledge, but not complete and not always correct.
* 21-23: generally good but superficial knowledge. Often inappropriate presentation skills.
* 18-21: sufficient knowledge of the main topics.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since this course is introductory, there are no specific prerequisites. However, interest and intellectual curiosity for philosophical reflection regarding concrete questions is expected.

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

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