**Bioethics**

## Prof. Dario Sacchini

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

*Knowledge and understanding (Dublin 1)*: introduction to the knowledge and understanding of ethics within health economics, organisation and management.

*Applying knowledge and understanding (Dublin 2)*: application of theoretical knowledge of health bioethics regarding paradigmatic case studies in the field of health economics, organisation and management.

*Making judgements (Dublin 3)*: students’ ability to make judgements via direct knowledge of cases via the application of health bioethical tools.

*Communication skills (Dublin 4)*: Encourage communication skills which allow students to describe cases via the principles of health ethics involved and via interaction with other students.

*Learning skills (Dublin 5)*: Have the ability to directly access literary sources in the ethics on health economics, organisation and management.

***COURSE CONTENT***

General bioethics

1. *Introduction to the course* - Ethics: critical analysis of pre-understanding of moral knowledge; Tools for the analysis of ethics: critical analysis of reality and the avoidance of ideological mistakes; Identification and debate surrounding certain preliminary definitions of Ethics.

2. M*ethodology of Ethical Analysis* – Justified reasons for an analytical method in bioethics; Aims and objectives of methodology; Distinction between acts by man and human acts; The structure of human acts: object, intentions and circumstances; Human freedom; Moral conscience: Definition, Distinctions, Problems: doubtful conscience, erroneous conscience; Value: concept and distinctions; the timeframe of the method: facts, values, judgement; Tools for resolving ethical dilemmas: the “double effect” principle, The “lesser evil”, The question of the so-called “cooperation with evil”.

3. *Relevance of the Relationship between Economics and Ethics* – Definition and environments of the subjects of economics and ethics; Consideration of the presumed non-valuation of economics and the separateness between ethics and economics; The return of the debate on the interaction between ethics and economics (Adam Smith and Amartya Sen): conditions of pertinence of a correct relationship between the two knowledges; The possibilities of inserting ethical assessments in the economic field.

4. *The Issue of Justice within the Health System* - General introduction to the issue of justice and in particular within the health system; the theories of justice (characteristics, applications within the health system, strengths and weaknesses): utilitarian subjectivism; utilitarianism; egalitarianism (socialist, liberal neocontractual, communitarian); personalism.

Special bioethics

5. *The Allocation of resources and Health Policies* – Definition and distinctions: allocation, rationing, rationalisation; the ethical debate on macro and micro allocation levels; Approaches to fixing priorities in the health system: *Health targets*, *Burden of disease*, *Qalys*, *Urgency*, *Relevance*.

6. *Economic Analysis in the Health System* – Ethical assessment of different typologies: cost analysis (CA), cost-minimisation analysis (CMA), cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA), cost-utility analysis (CUA), cost-benefit analysis (CBA).

7. *Organisational Ethics (OE) in the Health System* – Definition of OE and an introduction to the subject. Organisation of the Health System: Definition, Constitution, Organisational diagnosis. Specific issues of OE: elements of the organisation as a moral place, OE methodology, OE projects and strategies, tools: Ethical committees, ethical consultancy services; Integration of the health act into the organisation of services.

8. *Health Technology Assessment (HTA): Ethical Aspects* - Epistemological aspects: The issue of techniques; the concept of health technology; Origins, historical profile, definitions, objectives, assessment elements and domains of Hta; Ethical analysis of Hta: justification and approaches.

9. *Certain Bioethics Issues Applied to the Health System* – Essential levels of health assistance and federalism; Reimbursement of services to DRG; Health federalism; Evidence-based Medicine; Ethical committees.

***READING LIST***

*Course textbook*:

Spagnolo A.G., Sacchini D., Pessina A., Lenoci M., *Etica e giustizia in sanità. Questioni generali, aspetti metodologici e organizzativi*, Milano: McGraw Hill, 2004.

*Recommended reading:*

Sgreccia E., Manuale di Bioetica. I. *Fondamenti ed etica biomedica*, Milan: Vita e Pensiero, 2007 (4.a ed.): Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 5;

Sgreccia E., *Manuale di Bioetica. II. Aspetti medico-sociali*, Milan: Vita e Pensiero, 2011 (4.a ed.): Chapters 1, 9;

Sacchini D., Refolo P., *Per un rapporto di buon vicinato tra economia sanitaria ed etica*, Medicina e Morale 2006, 4: 759-793;

Sacchini D., Refolo P., *L’Health Technology Assessment (HTA) e i suoi aspetti etici*, Medicina e Morale 2007/1: 101-139;

Zamagni S., *Equità, razionamento, diritto alle cure sanitarie*, Medicina e Morale 2005/2: 335-373;

Sacchini D., Refolo P, Minacori R, Spagnolo AG. *Ethics domain in health technology assessment: basics, approaches and issues*. Riv Int Sci Sociali 2016, n. 3-4, pages 387-398.

In addition, the lecturer will provide students with a specific course pack on: the methodology of ethical analysis; Ethical aspects related to economic analysis in the health service and the allocation of resources; The principle of sociality.

Part of the reading list will be available on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Teaching will be in the form of lectures and frontal exercises, audiovisual presentations, discussions of case-studies, seminars, the use of the Blackboard regarding course topics so that students can apply their theoretical knowledge.

The collective discussion about the ethical impact of economic, organisational and management decisions within the health system as well as personal intervention by students will help to develop their independent judgement.

Students will be asked to intervene regarding single case studies, present them to their classmates and explain their individual vision and direction.

Guided reading of texts and the reading list material will allow students to continue to develop independent in-depth knowledge of the subject.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral examination and/or written examination which demonstrates their knowledge and understanding and ability to apply it to various different scenarios.

For attending students only, assessment will be via a final examination (oral and/or written) at the end of the course, preceded by an optional mid-term test (oral and/or written)

Non-attending students will sit a single examination (oral and/or written) at the end of the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

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