

Bioethics

Code: 102282
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500786 Law	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

Intellectual interest and discursive and critical ability to analyze new challenges posed by the scientific advances in the fields of life sciences and biomedicine.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Analysis of the historical and scientific context in which "Bioethics" is born.
Identification of the new problems and current debates generated by the new advances in the field of life sciences and biomedicine, especially those derived from the use of Assisted Reproductive Techniques.
Study of the existing legal regulation.
Understanding of the plurality of ideas and values around these issues in today's democratic societies.
Create an appropriate space of debate to facilitate the adoption of personal positions based on possible consensus, to evaluate the legal regulations, existing social conventions and moral convictions.

Skills

- Arguing and laying the foundation for the implementation of legal standards.
- Demonstrating a sensible and critical reasoning: analysis, synthesis, conclusions.
- Drawing up legal texts (contracts, judgements, sentences, writs, rulings, wills, legislation...).
- Identifying and solving problems.
- Identifying, assessing and putting into practice changes in jurisprudence.
- Integrating the importance of Law as a regulatory system of social relations.
- Students must be capable of demonstrating a critical awareness of the analysis of the legal system and development of legal dialectics.
- Students must be capable of perceiving the impact and implications of the decisions taken.
- Students must be capable of producing initiative, creative and innovative knowledge, as well as new ideas.
- Students must be effective in a changing environment and when facing new tasks, responsibilities or people.
- Working in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.
- Working in teams, being either a member or a coordinator of working groups, as well as making decisions affecting the whole group.

Learning outcomes

1. Applying the current discussions about gender and law, bioethics, law and technology and sociology of law to the legal practice.
2. Associating law and current social problems.
3. Demonstrating a sensible and critical reasoning: analysis, synthesis, conclusions.
4. Describing the evolution of jurisprudence in relation to the contemporary problems about gender and law, bioethics, law and technology and sociology of law.
5. Distinguishing the different critical contributions to the theory of Law.
6. Exploring the law-society relations in the fields of gender and law, bioethics, law and technology and sociology of law.
7. Identifying and solving problems.
8. Identifying in the jurisprudence the several problems proposed by subject.
9. Identifying the problems of law implementation.
10. Identifying the socio-legal problems in the current socio-legal theories.
11. Interpreting the contributions of gender and law, bioethics, law and technology and sociology of law.
12. Students must be capable of perceiving the impact and implications of the decisions taken.
13. Students must be capable of producing initiative, creative and innovative knowledge, as well as new ideas.
14. Students must be effective in a changing environment and when facing new tasks, responsibilities or people.
15. Working in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.
16. Working in teams, being either a member or a coordinator of working groups, as well as making decisions affecting the whole group.

Content

Contents:

1. Bioethics: Origins; science and technology during the twentieth century; Definitions of Bioethics; Resolution of bioethical conflicts.
2. Bioethics: Gender; Moral pluralism; Cultural diversity.
3. Bioethics and Law: International norms; Constitution; legislation; Jurisprudence.
4. Health care: Human experimentation and animal experimentation; The rights of the patient; The confidentiality of the medical history and the new information technologies.
5. Assisted Reproduction I: Techniques of Assisted Reproduction; The legal status of embryos; Donation of gametes and anonymity.
6. Assisted Reproduction II: Surrogacy; Reproductive cloning; Individual freedom, contract and the market.
7. Human Genetics: Preimplantation genetic diagnosis; Gene therapy; Genetics and Eugenics.
8. Sexual and reproductive rights: Sexual education and contraceptive methods; Abortion; Conscientious objection of health professionals.
9. End of life: rejection of health treatment; Palliative care and terminal sedation; Euthanasia.
10. Justice and Health: Assignment of health resources; Equality and health; Obligations towards future generations.

Methodology

The teaching of the subject and the training of the students will be done during the course based on the following activities:

1. Targeted activities:

1. Theoretical classes: students will achieve reach the theoretical framework of the subject and their contextualization. These activities require less interactivity and are conceived primarily as a one-way method of transmitting knowledge from the professor to the students.
2. Practical classes: students analyze, together with the professor, documents, legislation and other materials to critically understand what is explained in the theoretical classes.
2. Supervised activities: Activities developed by students with the supervision and support of professors.

3. Autonomous activities: Elaboration of cases that will be exposed and discussed in the classroom; search of bibliography and material complementary to the one facilitated by the professor; Comprehensive reading of texts and critical analysis of audiovisual materials.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Practical classes and teamwork	22.5	0.9	14, 13, 12, 15
Theoretical classes	22.5	0.9	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 8, 11, 2
Type: Autonomous			
Exam preparation	60	2.4	1, 14, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 8, 11, 7, 13, 15, 2
Reading	40	1.6	1, 9, 11, 13, 12, 15

Evaluation

Evaluation:

The final note will be obtained from the following elements:

1. Teamwork (25% of the final mark)
2. Practica case (25% of the final mark)
2. Final exam (50% of mark): This mark must exceed 5 in order to average with the remaining marks of the continuous evaluation.

The re-evaluation will be done by repeating the final exam and / or as established on a case-by-case basis on the day of the exam review

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exam	50%	2	0.08	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 8, 11, 7, 2
Practical case	25%	1	0.04	1, 3, 6, 9, 11, 7, 13, 12, 15, 2
Team work	25%	2	0.08	1, 14, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 8, 11, 7, 13, 12, 16, 15, 2

Bibliography

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DICKESON, Donna (2012): Bioethics: all that matters, London, Hodder Education.

DOLGIN, Janet L. (2005): Bioethics and the Law, New York, Aspen Publishers.

DWORKIN, Ronald (1994): El dominio de la vida, Barcelona, Ariel.

HABERMAS, Jürgen (2002): El futuro de la naturaleza humana ¿Hacia una eugenesia liberal?, Barcelona, Paidós.

SANDEL, M (2011): Justicia ¿hacemos lo que debemos?, Madrid, Debate.

SANDEL, M (2014): Lo que el dinero no puede comprar. Los límites morales del mercado, Madrid, Debate.

SINGER, Peter (1995): Ética práctica, Madrid, Cambridge University Press.