

Subject card

Subject name and code	Biomedicine and bioethics - lecture, PG_00149296						
Field of study	Law						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2022		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	uniform Master's studies		Subject group		Optional subject group		
Mode of study	part-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	4		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	7		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Tomasz Widlak				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	10		0.0		40.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course Biomedicine and Bioethics is to introduce students to the basic concepts and latest achievements in biomedicine and to develop their ability to critically analyse bioethical dilemmas arising from the development of life sciences. The course aims to show how medical innovations (including genetic engineering, cell therapy, artificial intelligence in diagnostics) affect law, public policy and the social understanding of human dignity.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[PRAWOJ5_UU12] He/she acquires knowledge efficiently and develops his/her professional skills using various sources (in native and foreign language) and modern technologies	knows and is able to use sources of knowledge about biomedicine	[SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[PRAWOJ5_WK12] He/she has knowledge of occupational health and safety in public administration institutions	not applicable	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[PRAWOJ5_WG02] He/she knows wide terminology and concepts in the scope of law and connected disciplines	knows the terminology of biomedical law and bioethics	[SW5] implementation of a problem task
	[PRAWOJ5_KR05] He/she prepares responsibly to his/her work; can determine priorities in work and plan work appropriately	can set priorities when working on bioethical issues	[SK5] implementation of a problem task
	[PRAWOJ5_UW04] He/she efficiently observes and analyzes moral, ethical and legal dilemmas in professional work	is proficient in the principles, legal and ethical standards in the field of biomedical law	[SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[PRAWOJ5_UW03] The graduate demonstrates deepened skills of using complex theoretical points of view to analyze, interpret and plan strategies of legal activities; solves concrete problems connected with the creation, application and interpretation of legal regulations, anticipates the course of their solution and predicts the effects of planned activities	is able to use theoretical models in bioethics and biomedical law	[SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[PRAWOJ5_WK10] He/she understands and knows the basic concepts and principles of industrial property protection and copyright law, as well as understands the need for proper protection of intellectual property and managing its resources	Understands the basic principles of industrial property protection in biomedicine	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[PRAWOJ5_KO04] The graduate is ready to prepare own projects connected with the creation, application and interpretation of legal regulations, including projects co-financed by the European Union's funds	not applicable	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[PRAWOJ5_KO03] He/she is prepared for active participation in groups, organizations and institutions connected with law, is also able to communicate with specialists and non-specialists in the field of law	not applicable	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[PRAWOJ5_WG08] He/she has deepened knowledge of sources of Polish law, its changes and processes of law formation	knows the sources of biomedical law	[SW5] implementation of a problem task
	[PRAWOJ5_UO11] He/she can work well in a team and can coordinate the team's work when solving legal problems, interpreting legal acts, and preparing written or oral opinions on a matter.	able to work in a team to solve bioethical problems	[SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[PRAWOJ5_KK02] He/she is aware of the need to widen professional competences and qualifications, to improve skills, is able to indicate the direction of own development and education independently in widened and deepened way	is aware of the need to expand their competence in bioethics and biomedical law	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[PRAWOJ5_WK13] He/she has advanced knowledge of the functioning of professional self-governments in legal professions, is familiar with the principles of judges' and prosecutors' professions, and has knowledge of the organization of the judiciary in Poland.	not applicable	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[PRAWOJ5_UW01] He/she has advanced skills in observation and interpretation of social phenomena, analyzes their connections with various areas, activity of legal science and the related disciplines	has the ability to observe social phenomena in bioethics	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[PRAWOJ5_UW02] The graduate utilizes theoretical knowledge in legal science and the connected academic disciplines to analyze and interpret complex legal issues	can apply theoretical knowledge in the field of bioethics	[SU5] implementation of a problem task
[PRAWOJ5_WK11] The graduate has deepened knowledge of the principles of creating and developing basic forms of individual entrepreneurship.	not applicable	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[PRAWOJ5_KR07] The graduate is ready to take up professional challenges, takes up efforts and is persistent in the implementation of individual and group activities in the creation, application or interpretation of legal regulations and related sciences	able to work in a group to solve bioethical problems	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[PRAWOJ5_UW06] The graduate is able to assess the usefulness of typical procedures and good practice in the implementation of tasks connected with various spheres connected with law and related fields	can assess the importance of good practices and standards in the field of biomedical law	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[PRAWOJ5_UW07] He/she has the skills in understanding and analyzing social phenomena and utilizing this analysis in his/her professional work.	has the ability to analyse phenomena in the field of biomedicine	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[PRAWOJ5_WG04] He/she knows the system of Polish law, mutual connections within the system and connections of Polish law with the European Union law and international law	knows the sources of biomedical law	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[PRAWOJ5_WG01] The graduate demonstrates deepened and systematic knowledge about the character of legal science, its place in the system of sciences and mutual relations.	not applicable	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[PRAWOJ5_WG03] He/she demonstrates deepened knowledge about the political system in Poland, about individual authorities with particular consideration of legislative authority and the judiciary,	not applicable	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[PRAWOJ5_KR06] He/she behaves in ethical and professional way, follows the principles of ethics	is convinced of the importance of complying with bioethical standards in biomedicine and scientific research	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[PRAWOJ5_UW05] He/she can observe and analyze moral, ethical and legal dilemmas in professional work	can diagnose moral dilemmas in biomedicine	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[PRAWOJ5_KK01] The graduate is deeply aware of the level of his/her knowledge and skills, and also understands the need of lifelong learning	understands the need for lifelong learning, as exemplified by advances in biomedical knowledge	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[PRAWOJ5_WG07] The graduate knows methods and tools, including techniques of data and information acquisition, as well as research methods appropriate for the field of study and the related disciplines	knows research methods in biomedical law	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[PRAWOJ5_WG06] He/she has systematic knowledge about the man as the subject establishing social structures and principles of their operation and about the man as the individual operating in these structures	has knowledge of humans as subjects of rights in biomedicine and bioethics	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
	[PRAWOJ5_WG05] The graduate demonstrates systematic knowledge about the types of legal relations and the governing regularities	has knowledge of legal relations in biomedical law	[SW5] implementation of a problem task
	[PRAWOJ5_UK09] He/she demonstrates wide skills in preparing speeches in the field of law in Polish and foreign language	has the ability to conduct oral arguments in the field of bioethics	[SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[PRAWOJ5_UK08] The graduate has wide skills to prepare written works connected with the work of a lawyer in Polish and foreign language	has the ability to prepare written works in the field of biomedicine and bioethics	[SU5] implementation of a problem task
	[PRAWOJ5_WG09] He/she demonstrates deepened and systematic knowledge about the processes of changes of political systems and of individual authorities, as well as the consequences of these changes	not applicable	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
Subject contents	1. Fundamentals of biomedicine and bioethics definitions, scope of disciplines, the relationship between science and values, four bioethical principles (autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice). 2. Genetic engineering and CRISPR mechanism of action, therapeutic potential, risks of germline modification, international regulations. 3. Stem cells and regenerative therapy cell sources, ethical controversies surrounding embryos, clinical trials and commercialisation. 4. Artificial intelligence in diagnosis and treatment algorithms, big data, responsibility for AI errors, privacy and bias issues. 5. Assisted reproduction (IVF, PGD, surrogacy) limits of interference in unborn life, rights of parents and children, inequalities of access. 6. Transplantology and regenerative medicine donation criteria, organ valuation, dilemmas of fair resource allocation. 7. Clinical trials and the ethics of human experimentation informed consent, trial phases, placebos, commercial sponsors, ethics committees. 8. End-of-life medicine palliative versus aggressive treatment, patient autonomy, euthanasia and assisted suicide from a legal perspective. 9. Public health bioethics vaccinations, quarantines, fairness in the distribution of resources during crises (e.g. pandemics). 10. Bio-enhancement and the limits of human enhancement pharmacological and technological cognitive doping, cyborgisation, intergenerational justice.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	project (own work)	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Chańska W., Różyńska J., <i>Bioetyka</i>, Warszawa 2013 Chyrowicz, B., <i>Bioetyka. Anatomia sporu</i>. Kraków 2015: Wydawnictwo Znak. Czepek, J.; Jasudowicz, T.; Kapelańska-Pręgowska, J., <i>Międzynarodowe standardy bioetyczne. Dokumenty i orzecznictwo</i>, Warszawa: Wolters Kluwer, 2014. Galewicz, W. (red.), <i>Początki ludzkiego życia. Antologia bioetyki</i>, Kraków 2010, Universitas. Singer, P., <i>Etyka praktyczna</i>, przeł. Andrzej Sagan, Warszawa 2007: Książka i Wiedza Gregorczyk, K., <i>Biobankowanie ludzkiego materiału biologicznego: spór o model racjonalnego prawa w badaniach biomedycznych</i>, Gdańsk 2024: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego. Nawrot O., <i>Kodeks etyki lekarskiej. Komentarz</i>, Sopot 2025: Arche Nawrot O., <i>Ludzka biogeneza w standardach bioetycznych Rady Europy</i>, Warszawa 2011: Wolters Kluwer. Widlak, T., <i>Cyfrowy sen Pigmaliona: zarys problematyki filozoficznoprawnej cyfrowych bliźniaków człowieka w zastosowaniach medycznych</i>, <i>Archiwum Filozofii Prawa i Filozofii Społecznej</i> 1/2025. Steinbock, B.; Menzel, P. T., <i>Bioethics: What Everyone Needs to Know</i>. New York 2023: Oxford University Press. Soniewicka, Marta, 2018, <i>Selekcja genetyczna w prokreacji medycznie wspomaganej: etyczne i prawne kryteria</i>, Warszawa: Wolters Kluwer.
	Supplementary literature	Różyńska, Joanna (red.), <i>Konsultacje etyczne w praktyce klinicznej</i>. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, 2023. Łuków, Paweł; Pasierski, Tomasz, <i>Etyka medyczna z elementami filozofii</i>. Wyd. 2 zm. Warszawa: PZWL, 2022. Ślipko, Tadeusz SJ, <i>Bioetyka. Najważniejsze problemy</i>. Wyd. 3. Kraków: Petrus, 2021. Beauchamp, Tom L.; Childress, James F., <i>Principles of Biomedical Ethics</i>. 8th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019. Vaughn, Lewis, <i>Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases</i>. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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