University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Bioethics, PG_00154759						
Field of study	Biology						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027			
Education level	Master's studies		Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Humanistic-social subject group			
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery	at the university			
Year of study	2		Language of instruction	Polish			
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits	1.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	credit			
Conducting unit	Faculty of Biology -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Paweł Pijas				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	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	15		2.0		8.0	25
Subject objectives	To introduce students to the causes, intellectual background, and methods of resolving (selected) contemporary bioethical issues; to develop moral awareness and ethical competence; and to cultivate the communication and logical skills necessary to participate in a (rationally understood) bioethical debate.						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[BIOLMU2_K01] the graduate shows initiative and is ready to act independently and feels the need for lifelong learning	The student is aware of the scope of his or her knowledge and skills and understands the need for continuous learning and professionalism in the face of the challenges posed by advances in the biological sciences.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[BIOLMU2_W03] the graduate has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of research problems at the frontiers of biological sciences that require the use of advanced tools	Students are able to identify ethical issues arising from advances in the biological sciences.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[BIOLMU2_W04] the graduate has an in-depth knowledge of the chosen specialisation in the biological sciences	The student is familiar with the basic ethical positions and ideas applicable to the field of bioethics.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[BIOLMU2_U07] the graduate is able to critically confront biological information from a variety of sources and, on this basis, draw valid conclusions	The student approaches every “simple” solution to a bioethical problem with a healthy sense of skepticism and considers alternative solutions.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[BIOLMU2_K04] the graduate is prepared to correctly identify and resolve dilemmas related to the profession of biology	The student is familiar with basic ethical terminology in Polish and has a broad understanding of the norms that constitute and regulate social structures and institutions, as well as the sources of these norms, their nature, changes in them, and the ways in which they influence human behavior.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[BIOLMU2_K06] the graduate is prepared to take responsibility for assessing the risks arising from the research techniques used and for creating ergonomic and safe working conditions	The student demonstrates responsibility when taking actions of a bioethical nature.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

1. Ethics: the nature of the field (descriptive ethics vs. normative ethics, ethics vs. law and theology, the foundations of ethics, branches of ethics, the naturalistic fallacy, the problem of moral beliefs), major ethical theories and their conceptual tools (utilitarianism/consequentialism, Kantianism/deontology, virtue ethics, values ethics, personalism).
2. Bioethics: the nature of bioethical problems, the methodological status of bioethics and its premises, models of bioethical reasoning, typical argumentative strategies, B. Mepham’s ethical matrix.
3. Analysis of selected bioethical issues, e.g., the beginning and end of human life (abortion, euthanasia), the ethics of procreation, and the ethics of human-animal relations.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
nie dotyczy	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	1. Chyrowicz B., Argumentacja we współczesnych debatach bioetycznych, Diametros - Internetowe Czasopismo Filozoficzne 19(2009) 2. Mepham B., Bioetyka, tłum. E. Bartnik, P. Golik, J. Klimczyk, PWN, Warszawa 2008 (zwłaszcza rozdziały 1-9). [Bioethics: An Introduction for the Biosciences, Oxford University Press, 2008] 3. Singer P., Etyka praktyczna, tłum. A. Sagan. Książka i Wiedza, Warszawa 2007(2003). [Practical Ethics, Cambridge University Press, 1979] 4. de Waal F., Małpy i filozofowie. Skąd pochodzi moralność?, tłum. B. Brożek, M. Furman, Copernicus Center Press, Kraków 2014. [Primates and Philosophers. How Morality Evolved?, Princeton University Press, 2016] 5. Williams B., Moralność. Wprowadzenie do etyki, tłum. M. Hernik, Aletheia, Warszawa 2000. [Morality. An Introduction to Ethics, 1972] Wybrane numery czasopisma popularnonaukowego "Filozofuj!".
	Supplementary literature	Not applicable.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Using the ethical ideas and theories you have learned, justify your chosen position in the abortion debate. Present the classical concept of the person.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

Document generated electronically. Does not require a seal or signature.