University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Ethics in biotechnology, PG_00197326						
Field of study	Biotechnology						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject		2027/2028		
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	3		ECTS credits		1.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		exam		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Tomasz Kąkol				
	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	Answering the question of what ethics is; discussion of ethical theories; characteristics of bioethics as an ethical discipline, presentation and discussion of bioethical problems.						

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<tr><td>Learning outcomes</td><td>
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<tr><th>Course outcome</th><th>Subject outcome</th><th>Method of verification</th></tr>
<tr><td>[BIOTECHMU2_U06] The graduate is able to prepare, in a targeted manner in Polish and / or English, a written study, a scientific publication in the field of biotechnology using scientific language, including specialist terminology and conceptual apparatus.</td><td>The student prepares, in accordance with the instructor’s instructions, a short written study of the materials received in the field of ethics in biotechnology, using terminology and conceptual apparatus appropriate for both social sciences and humanities (ethics) and biotechnology.</td><td>[SU4] test/exam - oral or written</td></tr>
<tr><td>[BIOTECHMU2_K04] The graduate understands the ethical dilemmas and risks associated with conducting scientific research and introducing highly advanced technologies using biotechnology; appreciates the importance of intellectual property; and acts ethically, reflecting on one's own worldview, attitudes and professional responsibility.</td><td>The student identifies and explains contextually the threats and dilemmas, including ethical ones, related to conducting scientific research and introducing advanced technologies using biotechnology.</td><td>[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion</td></tr>
<tr><td>[BIOTECHMU2_W07] The graduate possesses knowledge in the social sciences and humanities that is helpful in entrepreneurship and effective functioning in society, and understands the principles of responsibility in conducting scientific research, is able to interpret scientific and organizational decisions in the light of ethical, social and economic values.</td><td>The student possesses knowledge of ethics in biotechnology, essential for biotechnological work and for functioning effectively in society. Understands and applies the principles of responsibility in conducting scientific research in the field of biotechnology.</td><td>[SW4] test/exam - oral or written</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Subject contents</td><td>What is ethics? A historical and problematic approach; four types of ethical theories: virtue theory, consequentialist theory (exemplified by utilitarianismthe utilitarianism of acts versus rules), deontological theory (exemplified by Kant's theory), and value ethics (Wertethik). Objections. Emotivism and criticism. Typical ethical arguments, especially so-called slippery slope argumentsanalysis. Bioethics and several of its issues, or detailed ethics in practice, the necessity of practicing it alongside ontology: the status of the human zygote, embryo, and fetus; euthanasia; dementia and other neurological conditions. Free discussion, including on topics proposed by students.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prerequisites and co-requisites</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment methods and criteria</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Subject passing criteria</th><th>Passing threshold</th><th>Percentage of the final grade</th></tr>
<tr><td>The system presented during the first class</td><td>51.0%</td><td>100.0%</td></tr>
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<tr><td>Recommended reading</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>Basic literature</td><td>• R. Brandt, Etyka. Zagadnienia etyki normatywnej i metaetyki (bez rozdz. XVI-XX), tł. B. Stanosz, Warszawa: PWN
• B. Smith, B. Brogaard, Embryoontology, https://ontology.buffalo.edu/smith/articles/Embryontology(short).pdf
• K. Wieczorek, Mechanizmy staczania się po równi pochyłej, "Filozofia Nauki", 19(2011), nr 2(74), https://www.fn.uw.edu.pl/index.php/fn/article/view/639/799</td></tr>
<tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td>• A. McIntyre, A Brief History of Ethics, translated by A. Chmielewski
• Tomasz Kąkol, "The Death of the Human Zygote and Its Older Colleagues. On Selected Prejudice in Contemporary Prenatal Bioethics," in: Leszek Kopciuch (ed.), Philosophy and Practice, Lublin: UMCS 2015
• Materials provided by the instructor</td></tr>
<tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td></td></tr>
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<tr><td>Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Work placement</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr>
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