

Module Layout BIH523 / Bioethics and the Beginning of Life

Faculty	ΣΑΚΕ	School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Programme of Study	BIHII	Bioethics - Healthcare Ethics
Module	BIH523	Bioethics and the Beginning of Life
Level of Study	Undergraduate	Graduate
		Master Doctoral
		X
Language of Instruction		Greek
Mode of Delivery		Distance
Module Type	Required	Elective
		X

Number of Group Consulting Meetings	Total	Physical Presence	Online
	4	0	4

Number of Assignments	2		
Final Grade Calculation	Assignments	Weekly Activities	Final Exam
	30%	10%	60%
Number of European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)	10		

Module Description

The module Bioethics and the Beginning of Life in the Bioethics concentration is an elective module. The aim of this module is to introduce students to the problematic surrounding reproduction — that is, to the ways in which humans can and should reproduce. It examines the ethical dimension of the choices and practices relating to the entire reproductive process, from the suitability of prospective parents, the modes of conception (e.g. in vitro fertilisation), prenatal testing, genetic improvement of embryos, the cryopreservation of ova, embryos and ovarian tissue, surrogacy, up to delivery methods and the termination of pregnancy. In this context, the opposing philosophical positions on questions such as the following are explored: 'Is surrogacy ethically permissible and if so, what restrictions apply?', 'Are there criteria for assessing the suitability of people who wish to become parents?', 'Does one have obligations towards an embryo, even though one tried to prevent its conception?', 'Why does the prenatal

testing process create tensions between healthcare providers and communities of persons with disabilities?', 'Should women who are about to undergo gender reassignment be allowed to freeze their ova?', 'Should the views of a man and a woman carry equal weight in the decision to terminate or continue a pregnancy?', among others. Discussion of the above questions evidently presupposes and also tests central concepts of ethics and the respective theoretical frameworks within which they are embedded. In this way, without altering the strongly practical orientation of the module, the concepts of the autonomy of prospective parents in relation to the rights of the embryo (future or actual), the consequentialist line of response, and the virtue ethics approach, which frames all the preceding issues in terms of virtues and vices, are all examined.

Pre-requisite Modules

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Co-requisite Modules

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Grading Scheme

Assessment Method	Percentage on Final Grade	Workload	
		Hours	ECTS
<i>Weekly Interactive Activities</i>	10%	12.5–15	0.5
<i>Weekly Study</i>	0%	125–150	5
<i>Assignment 1</i>	15%	37.5–45	1.5
<i>Assignment 2</i>	15%	37.5–45	1.5
<i>Final/Repeat Examination</i>	60%	37.5–45	1.5
Total	100%	250–300	10

Grading Rules and Assessment Methods

Students are evaluated with 9, if they earn 90% of the possible grade, i.e. $90\% \times 10 = 9$, etc. Passing rate: 50% of the Assignments; 50% of the Interactive Activities. Students are allowed to participate in the final exam of a Module if they have overall earned the minimum grade ($\geq 50\%$) in both their Assignments and Interactive Activities. 50% of the Final exam. If a student earns a grade with decimal points, then it is rounded to the nearest half unit.