

COURSE DESCRIPTION

BIOETHICS (IN ENGLISH), BME6410

Academic year 2026-2027

1. Programme-related data

1.1. Higher Education Institution	„Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca
1.2. Faculty	Faculty of Biology and Geology
1.3. Department	Department of Biology, Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Hungarian
1.4. Field	Biology
1.5. Level of study	Bioethics MA Medical Biology
1.6. Degree programme / Qualification	Biology (in Hungarian) / Degree in biology
1.7. Form of education	with frequency

2. Course-related data

2.1. Course title	Bioethics	Course code	BME6410
2.2. Course coordinator	Ungvári Zrínyi Imre, Associate professor, PhD		
2.3. Seminar coordinator	Ungvári Zrínyi Imre, Associate professor, PhD		
2.4. Year of study		2.5. Semester	
		2.6. Type of assessment	E
2.7. Course status	0	2.8. Course type	CS

3. Total estimated time (hours per semester of teaching activities)

3.1. Number of hours per week	4	of which: 3.2. course	2	3.3. seminar/ laboratory/ project	2
3.4. Total of hours in the curriculum	48	of which: 3.5. course	24	3.6. seminar/ laboratory	24
Time allocation for individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)					hours
Learning from textbooks, course materials, bibliography, and notes (IS)					48
Additional research in the library, on subject-specific electronic platforms, and on-site					9
Preparing seminars/ laboratories/ projects, assignments, reports, portfolios, and essays					18
Tutoring (professional guidance)					3
Examinations					6
Other activities					48
3.7. Total hours of individual study (IS) and self-taught activities (ST)				84	
3.8. Total hours per semester				140	
3.9. Number of credits				4	

4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1. curriculum-related	Not applicable
4.2. skills-related	Not applicable

5. Specific conditions (where applicable)

5.1. course-related	Audio-video logistics, whiteboard
5.2. seminar/laboratory-related	Audio-video logistics, whiteboard

6.1. Competencies resulting from the completion of the degree programme (as referred to in the curriculum)

Professional competencies	
Competency code	Competency

PC3	Ability to critically analyze scientific data, evaluate modern methods and technologies;
PC4	Accurate interpretation of laboratory results and correlation with potential clinical conditions, within the limits of professional competence;
PC6	Data management and reporting of results ensuring accuracy, confidentiality, and traceability.
Transversal competencies	
Competency code	Competency
TC1	Ability to collaborate within a multidisciplinary team to improve workflow and service quality;
TC2	Adherence to professional ethics, confidentiality standards, and regulations related to data protection and biosafety;
TC3	Ability to communicate effectively about results, procedures, and technical issues.

6.2. Learning outcomes relevant to the degree programme (as referred to in the curriculum)

Learning outcomes targeted by the subject		
Competency code	Knowledge and comprehension	Specific academic skills
PC16	Know the principles of research ethics, scientific integrity, and responsible academic communication.	Produce and evaluate scientific texts in accordance with ethical standards, academic structure, and scholarly argumentation.

7. Subject-specific learning outcomes

Knowledge and comprehension
1. Compliance with good laboratory practice and biosafety regulations, and assuming responsibility for the accuracy of results, with autonomy in organizing and conducting experimental activities.
Specific academic skills
1. Assumes responsibility for the accuracy, originality, and ethical impact of communicating research results.

8. Contents

8.1. Course	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks
01. Basic ethical concepts	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
02. Applied ethics or branch moralities	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
03. Bioethics, its fields and approaches	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
04. Albert Schweitzer: The ethics of respect for life	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
05. Charles Susanna: Bioethics from a pluralist perspective	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
06. The concept of life, its forms and systemic connection	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
07. Decisions about early life	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
08. Life care decisions and related therapies	Presentation, discussion, case	

	studies, exercises	
09. Decisions about life in its final stages	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
10. The opportunities and risks of genetics and biotechnology	Transmitere frontală de cunoștințe, proiecții PowerPoint, scheme pe tablă	
11. Environmental ethics and the intrinsic value of nature	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	
12. Bioethical principles. Bioethical codes and the rights of living creatures	Presentation, discussion, case studies, exercises	

Bibliography

1. Charles, Susanne (szerk.): *Bioetikai olvasókönyv. Multidiszciplináris megközelítés* [Bioethics reader. A multidisciplinary approach], Dialóg Campus Kiadó, Pécs–Budapest, 1999.
2. Lányi András - Jávor Benedek (szerk.): *Környezet és etika – Szöveggyűjtemény* [Environment and ethics - Textbook], L'Harmattan, Budapest, 2005.
3. Manson, Neil C. - O'Neill, Onora: *Rethinking Informed Consent in Bioethics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2007.
4. Scripcaru, Gheorghe –Astărăstoae, Vasile – Aurora Ciucă –Călin Scripcaru: *Bioetica, științele vieții și drepturile omului* [Bioethics, life sciences and human rights], Polirom, Iași, 1998.
5. Schweitzer, Albert: *Az élet tisztelete* [Respect for life], Ursus Kiadó, Budapest, 1999.
6. Ungvári-Zrínyi Imre: *Alkalmazott etikai alapgagalmak. Bioetika. Gazdaságetika. Közszolgálati etika. Médiaetika* [Basic concepts of applied ethics. Bioethics. Ethics of economics. Ethics in public service. Media ethics], Egyetemi Műhely Kiadó-Bolyai Társaság, Kolozsvár, 2007., 9-110.

8.2. Seminar/ laboratory	Teaching and learning methods	Remarks
01. Ungvári Zrínyi Imre: Etikai alapgagalmak és életvezetési tendenciák [Basic ethical concepts and lifestyle trends], In: U.Z. I.: Ungvári-Zrínyi Imre: <i>Alkalmazott etikai alapgagalmak. Bioetika. Gazdaságetika. Közszolgálati etika. Médiaetika</i> [Basic concepts of applied ethics. Bioethics. Ethics of economics. Ethics in public service. Media ethics], Egyetemi Műhely Kiadó-Bolyai Társaság, Kolozsvár, 2007. 43–72.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
02. Ungvári Zrínyi Imre: Alkalmazott etika vagy ágazati erkölcsstanok? [Applied ethics or branch moralities] <i>op. cit.</i> , 73–82.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
03. Chiarelli, Brunetto: Az etika biológiai és evolucionista alapjai [The biological and evolutionary foundations of ethics]. In Suzanne, Charles (szerk.): <i>Bioetika</i> . Dialóg. Campus Kiadó, Budapest-Pécs 1999. 17– 30.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
04. Albert Schweitzer: Az élet tiszteletének etikája [The ethics of respect for life], Schweitzer, Albert: <i>Az élet tisztelete</i> [Respect for life], Ursus Kiadó, Budapest, 1999.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
05. Charles Susanne: Bioetika pluralista megközelítésben [Bioethics from a pluralist perspective], In: Charles, Susanne (szerk.): <i>Bioetikai olvasókönyv. Multidiszciplináris megközelítés</i> [Bioethics	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	











reader. A multidisciplinary approach], Dialóg Campus Kiadó, Pécs–Budapest, 1999, 55–68.		
06. Fritjof Capra: Az élet szövedéke [The Web of Life], <i>Modus Vivendi Magazin</i> , 2014. február, 1-8.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
07. Szebik, Imre: Bioetikai kérdések az élet kezdete kapcsán [Bioethical questions about the beginning of life]. In: <i>Értelmes szívvel. Etikai témák az evangélikus oktatásban</i> [With a reasonable heart. Ethical issues in evangelical education]. Luther Kiadó, Budapest, 2016, 43-67.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
08. Losonczi Ágnes: A beteg ember kiszolgáltatottsága [The vulnerability of the sick person], In: Losonczi Ágnes: <i>A kiszolgáltatottság anatómiája az egészségügyben</i> [The anatomy of vulnerability in health care], Magvető Kiadó, Budapest, 1986, 52 -110	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
09. Henk Ten Have: Érvek az eutanázia és az asszisztált öngyilkosság legalizálása mellett és ellen [Arguments for and against legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide], <i>Kharón</i> , 2003/3., 18–37. Kathleen Foley: A palliatív ellátás múltja és jövője [The past and future of palliative care], <i>Kharon</i> , 2006./1-2, 8–19.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
10. Sándor Judit: A feminista bioetika szerepe a kortárs biotechnológia területén [The role of feminist bioethics in contemporary biotechnology], <i>Századvég</i> , 2015/76, 87–102. Endreffy Zoltán: Genetika, géntechnológia és etika [Genetics, genetic engineering and ethics], <i>Magyar Szemle</i> , 1994/8, 872-881.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
11. A Hippokratészi eskü [The Hippocratic Oath]; Directive 2004/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the donation of human tissues and cells; 2003/46. sz. Törvény a betegek jogairól (Románia)[Law No 46/2003 on patients' rights]; Az állatok jogainak egyetemes nyilatkozata [The UNESCO Declaration of the Rights of Animals], UNESCO-ház Párizs, 1978 október, 15.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
12. Kovács József: Környezeti etika [Environmental ethics], <i>Világosság</i> , 2008./ 9–10, 75-107. Abram, David: Merleau-Ponty és a Föld hangja [Merleau-Ponty and the voice of the Earth], In: Lányi András - Jávor Benedek (szerk.): <i>Környezet és etika – Szöveggyűjtemény</i> [Environment and ethics - Textbook], L'Harmattan, Budapest, 2005, 328–348.	Text analysis, problem-solving and discussion	
Bibliography		

1. Abram, David: Merleau-Ponty és a Föld hangja [Merleau-Ponty and the voice of the Earth], In: Lányi András - Jávor Benedek (szerk.): *Környezet és etika - Szöveggyűjtemény*, L'Harmattan, Budapest, 2005, 328–348.
2. Chiarelli, Brunetto: Az etika biológiai és evolucionista alapjai [The biological and evolutionary foundations of ethics]. In Suzanne, Charles (szerk.): *Bioetika. Dialóg*. Campus Kiadó, Budapest-Pécs 1999. 17– 30.
3. Endreffy Zoltán: Genetika, géntechnológia és etika [Genetics, genetic engineering and ethics], *Magyar Szemle*, 1994/8, 872–881.
4. Fritjof Capra: Az élet szövődése [The Web of Life], *Modus Vivendi Magazin*, 2014. február, 1-8.
5. Henk Ten Have: Érvek az eutanázia és az asszisztált öngyilkosság legalizálása mellett és ellen [Arguments for and against legalising euthanasia and assisted suicide], *Kharón*, 2003/3., 18–37.
6. Kathleen Foley: A Palliatív ellátás múltja és jövője [The past and future of palliative care], *Kharon*, 2006./1-2, 8–19.
7. Kovács József: Környezeti etika [Environmental ethics], *Világosság*, 2008./ 9–10, 75-107.
8. Losonczi Ágnes: A beteg ember kiszolgáltatottsága [The vulnerability of the sick person], In: Losonczi Ágnes: *A kiszolgáltatottság anatómiája az egészségügyben* [The anatomy of vulnerability in health care], Magvető Kiadó, Budapest, 1986, 52 –110
9. Rózsa Erzsébet: Autonómia és paternalizmus – az orvos–beteg kapcsolat etikai kérdései a modern medicinában [Autonomy and paternalism - ethical issues in the doctor-patient relationship in modern medicine]. Debreceni Egyetemi Kiadó, Debrecen, 2017
10. Rózsa, Erzsébet: Az etika kiiktathatatlansága a modern medicinában - a hagyományos orvosi etikai, a biomedicinális etikai és bioetikai perspektívák metszéspontján [The inevitability of ethics in modern medicine - at the intersection of traditional medical ethics, biomedical ethics and bioethics perspectives], *Az Eszterházy Károly Egyetem tudományos közleményei (Új sorozat 42. köt.) = Acta Universitatis de Carolo Eszterházy Nominatae. Sectio Philosophica = Tanulmányok a filozófiatudományok köréből*, 2019, pp. 89-104.
11. Sándor Judit: A feminista bioetika szerepe a kortárs biotechnológia területén [The role of feminist bioethics in contemporary biotechnology], *Századvég*, 2015/76, 87–102.
12. Szebik, Imre: Bioetikai kérdések az élet kezdete kapcsán [Bioethical questions about the beginning of life]. In: *Értelmes szívvel. Etikai témák az evangélikus oktatásban* [With a reasonable heart. Ethical issues in evangelical education]. Luther Kiadó, Budapest, 2016, 43-67.

9. Evaluation

Type of activity	9.1 Evaluation criteria	9.2 Evaluation methods	9.3 Percentage in the final grade
9.4. Course	Compulsory attendance of students in 70% of the courses The student must have a passing grade in both course and seminar material Attempted fraud or deception is charged with a grade of 1 and unfamiliarity with the material covered with a grade of 4.	Examen scriis	70%
9.5. Seminar/ laboratory	- Compulsory attendance of students to 80% of the seminars - participation in debates - analysis of three texts discussed in the seminar - correct categorization of the topic - presentation of the content in the appropriate conceptual and methodological framework		30%
9.6 Minimum standard for passing			
a.) The student has a correct overview of the fundamental issues of ethics			
b.) The student is able to explain with appropriate specialized terminology the interrelation of ethical issues on an example given by him/herself			
c.) The student is able to present coherently at least three texts from the thematic content of the subject.			

10. SDG labels (Sustainable Development Goals)

		Sustainable Development Generic Label	
			
			

Date of entry:
04.14.2026.

Signature of course coordinator
Ungvári Zrínyi Imre, Ass. Prof., PhD

Signature of seminar coordinator
Ungvári Zrínyi Imre, Ass. Prof., PhD

Date of approval in the department:

Signature of the head of department
Vlad-Alexandru Toma, Univ. Lect., PhD