

Course syllabus
«LAW AND BIOETHICS: INTRODUCTORY COURSE»

I. Course Description

a. Title of a course

Law and Bioethics: introductory course

b. Pre-requisites

Before attending this course, students shall have knowledge of:

- General legal theory;
- Constitutional law.

Grade for the “Theory of State and Law” course – not lower than 7.

Average grade – not lower than 7.

Place in the current rating – not lower than 180.

c. Course Type

Elective.

d. Abstract

The course aims at giving the students basic knowledge in law & bioethics and prepare them for further studies and research in the bio-legal field (life sciences law).

II. Learning Objectives

The course aimed at making students understand the legal foundations of bioethics. During the course students will learn:

- what bioethics is and why it requires regulation;
- what are the most pressing issues in contemporary bioethics and what legal issues they entail;
- what are the main approaches to bioethical problems solution and how states address it through their legislation and policy.

III. Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- know major legal issues in bioethics;
- know basic terminology and conceptual framework in bioethics;
- understand where these issues come from and what solutions are offered to mitigate their adverse effect in the society;
- generally analyze and interpret national and international approaches to regulation of various bioethical issues;
- acquire basic skills in doing research in the field of law & bioethics;
- understand the impact bioethical knowledge for lawyers and life science professionals;
- assist in drafting policy documents containing bioethical issues.

IV. Course Plan

1. Introductory lectures: getting to know the rules and the people.
2. Introduction into bioethics: history, terminology, key concepts.

3. Legal issues in bioethics: what they are and where they come from?
4. Informed consent as a legal and ethical phenomenon.
5. Law & neuroethics.
6. Law and testing on living subjects: animal testing, human testing, laws and alternatives.
7. Law & bioethics in ADR and transplantation.
8. Law & bioethics in beginning and end of life.
9. Law and genomics: introductory lecture; human cloning, eugenics and policy.
10. Law & bioethics in the workplaces

V. Reading list

1. UNESCO (2010). National Bioethics Committees in Action. Paris. URL: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001895/189548e.pdf>
2. Chadwick R., Levitt, M., & Shickle, D., eds. (2014). The Right to Know and the Right Not to Know: Genetic Privacy and Responsibility. DOI: [10.1017/CBO9781139875981](https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139875981). Available in GoogleBooks: <https://books.google.ru/books?id=gVFCBAAAQBAJ>
3. Dolgin, J., & Shepherd, L.L. (2014). Bioethics and the Law. Wolters Kluwer Law & Business. Available in GoogleBooks: https://books.google.ru/books?id=dq_fDgAAQBAJ
4. Düwell, M. (2013). Bioethics: Methods, Theories, Domains. Routledge. Available in GoogleBooks: <https://books.google.ru/books?id=EZgfmarPEIIC>
5. Foster, Ch. (2011). Human Dignity in Bioethics and Law. Hart Publishing. Available in GoogleBooks: <https://books.google.ru/books?id=pYp6BAAAQBAJ>
6. Iltis, A.S., Johnson, S.H., & Hinze, B.A. (2007). Legal Perspectives in Bioethics. Routledge. Available in GoogleBooks: <https://books.google.ru/books?id=c4CTAgAAQBAJ>
7. Menikoff, J. (2002). Law and Bioethics: An Introduction. Georgetown University Press. Available in GoogleBooks: <https://books.google.ru/books?id=2jXOYv3X8zsC>
8. Schaller, B.R. (2007). Understanding Bioethics and the Law: The Promises and Perils of the Brave New World of Biotechnology. Praeger. Available in GoogleBooks: <https://books.google.ru/books?id=v6trZVXhuNQC>
9. Smith, G.P. (1993). Bioethics and the Law: Medical, Socio-legal and Philosophical Directions for a Brave New World. University Press of America. Available in GoogleBooks: <https://books.google.ru/books?id=ofd9lmMqaxkC>

VI. Grading system

FINAL GRADE = $0.7 * \text{cumulative} + 0.3 * \text{exam}$

- cumulative = $0.8 * \text{attendance} + 0.2 * \text{essay}$
- attendance = $0.05 * \% \text{ of the course classes attended} + 0.5 * \text{AP}$
 - AP - active participation. $\text{AP} = \text{NG} / (\text{NC} - 1) * \text{average grade}$
 - NG – number of grades received
 - NC – number of the course classes

ALL digits in the formulas (except the result of a cumulative grade formula) shall be rounded off to no more than the second decimal digit!

Cumulative grade is always rounded off to an integer.

Cumulative grades upper than 5 (i.e. grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) may be recognized as the student's final grade upon the student's will.

Examples for 10 classes in the course:

- Responsible student A attended all 10 classes (100% of the course classes), was active at every class except the first and received 9 grades (9, 10, 8, 9, 9, 10, 8, 10, 10; average is 9.22...); essay grade was 10:
 - $AP = 9/9 * 9.22 = 9.22$
 - $attendance = 0.05 * 100 + 0.5 * 9.22 = 5 + 4.61 = 9.61$
 - $cumulative\ (final) = 0.8 * 9.61 + 0.2 * 10 = 7.69 + 2 = 9.69 \sim 10$ - it's more than 5, so the student may NOT pass the exam ♥ ☺
- Busy student B attended 8 classes (80% of the course classes), but was not very active in the class and got 3 grades (7, 9, 5; average is 7); essay grade was 8:
 - $AP = 3/9 * 7 = 0.33... * 7 = 2.33... \sim 2.33$
 - $attendance = 0.05 * 80 + 0.5 * 2.33 = 4 + 1.17 = 5.17$
 - $cumulative\ (final) = 0.8 * 5.17 + 0.2 * 8 = 4.14 + 1.6 = 5.74 \sim 6$ - it's more than 5, so the student may NOT pass the exam ♥ ☺
- Reluctant student C attended 4 classes (40% of the course classes), got 3 grades (5, 6, 9); average is 6.67...); grade for the essay was 6:
 - $AP = 3/9 * 6.67 = 0.33 * 6.67 = 2.2011 \sim 2.20$
 - $attendance = 0.05 * 40 = 0.5 * 2.20 = 2 + 1.1 = 3.1$
 - $cumulative\ (final) = 0.8 * 3.1 + 0.2 * 6 = 2.48 + 1.2 = 3.68 \sim 4$ - it's lower than 5, so the student shall pass the exam.
 - exam grade was 8, so the final = $0.7 * 4 + 0.3 * 8 = 2.1 + 2.4 = 4.5 \sim 5$
- Irresponsible student D attended the classes only once (10% of the course classes), was inactive in the class and got no grades for participation (average=0); essay grade was 5:
 - $AP = 1/9 * 0 = 0$
 - $attendance = 0.05 * 10 + 0.5 * 0 = 0.5 + 0 = 0.5$
 - $cumulative\ (final) = 0.8 * 0.5 + 0.2 * 5 = 0.4 + 1 = 1.4$ - it's lower than 5, so the Student shall pass the exam.
 - exam grade was 5; the final = $0.7 * 1.4 + 0.3 * 5 = 0.98 + 1.5 = 2.48 \sim 3$ - the student shall retake the exam
 - grade for retaken exam grade was 8; final = $0.7 * 1.4 + 0.3 * 8 = 0.98 + 2.4 = 3.38 \sim 3$ - the student shall retake the exam
 - grade for the second retaken exam is 9; final = $0.7 * 1.4 + 0.3 * 9 = 0.98 + 2.9 = 3.68 \sim 4$ - the ordeal is over!

VII. Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment

Grades are given throughout the course upon the students' activity in the class, their abilities and efforts to master the course material, their devotion and involvement in the group work in the class and the progress of student in the course subject.

Excellence in participation is not measured by quantity of speech, but rather by consistent preparation, thoughtful interventions, and a willingness to consider the ideas of others.

In case of non-attendance for a good reason students are required to ask the lecturer for a substitutional exercise to be completed outside the class that shall be submitted to the lecturer not later than 2 weeks after the missed class. Documents on the reason of non-attendance shall be submitted to the lecturer immediately when the student returns back to the class.

Essays shall be submitted not later than 1 week before the last class. An essay shall be not less than 5 pages A4 and in no case shall it be less than 2 000 English words (MS Word calculation). If a student misses the established deadline for the essay submission, 2 points are subtracted from the grade for the essay.

VIII. Method of Instruction

It is not allowed to register to or to leave the course after the third class has been held.

The lecturer shall appoint a coordinator for the class (a responsible student enrolled for the class).

Regular period for the feedback in writing is:

- for students' enquiries sent to the lecturer's e-mail address – 3 nights;
- for students' enquiries sent to the assistant's e-mail address – 1 night.

It's a student's responsibility to make sure the addressee has received the student's enquiry.

- If an enquiry is not answered in reasonable time, it is highly recommended to inform the lecturer at the nearest class that the enquiry requires an urgent answer. In such cases the answer may be given orally.

Assigned reading should be completed before each class. Students are expected to come to class prepared to share questions and thoughts related to the assigned topics.

The Policy of the Subdepartment of Life Sciences Law (Law Faculty of the State University Higher School of Economics) permits a student to incur no absences without prior notice and without providing evidence of a good reason.

Lecturer/Instructor may review the completion of the homework anonymously with the class after the students' works have been graded and returned to students in order to emphasize and discuss common mistakes and advise students on future studies. Students are welcome to ask questions and discuss any homework-related matters (preferably after the class at which it was given or via an e-mail).

XIX. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)

Software support

№	Software	Terms of access
1.	Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS Microsoft Windows 10 Microsoft Windows 8.1 Professional RUS	<i>From intranet (license)</i>
2.	Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010	<i>From intranet (license)</i>

Professional databases, inquiry and communications system, internet resources (electronic educational resources)

№	Database	Terms of access
	<i>Professional databases, inquiry and communications system</i>	
1.	Consultant Plus	<i>From intranet (license)</i>
2.	HSE electronic library (electronic resources)	URL: https://elibrary.hse.ru/e-resources/e-resources.htm
	<i>Internet resources (electronic educational resources)</i>	
1.	Open education	URL: https://openedu.ru/

Course material-and-technical support

Lecture halls for course auditorium classes provide the usage and demonstration of subject illustration, related to the course plan, composed of

- multimedia projector with remote control.

Classrooms for course self-study are equipped with an option for Internet connectivity and access to electronic information educational resources of the HSE University.