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Applied Bioethics

Faculty

Research Center for Applied Bioethics & Medical Humanities (CRiBCeMH) - Department of Healthcare Surveillance and Bioethics, "A. Gemelli" School of Medicine, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome (Italy)

PROF. DARIO SACCHINI (Coordinator)
Prof. PIETRO REFOLO
Dr. COSTANZA RAIMONDI
Dr. SALVATORE SIMONE MASILLA

Fondazione Policlinico Universitario "A. Gemelli" IRCCS, Rome (Italy), Università Cattolica Sacro Cuore, Rome Italy

Dr. FRANCESCA GALLINI
Prof. GIUSEPPE NOIA
Dr. LUCA TAGLIAFERRI
Prof. GIOVANNI VENTO
Prof. MARCELLA ZOLLINO

National Research Council - Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology CNR - IBBC (Italy)

Dr. MARCELLO RASPA

Area of study	Applied Bioethics
Area Code	
Credits	6 ECTS
Dates	22 June – 3 July (2 weeks)
Campus	Rome

Course description/overview

The Course will introduce Bioethics, particularly in its most current applicative aspects, starting from the historical, methodological and anthropological profile, to then delve into Clinical Bioethics, the ethical aspects relating to preclinical and clinical experimentation, HTA, AI, digital technologies, evidence-based medicine, the most advanced methods of clinical management of the most vulnerable patients, effective physician-patient communication, Assisted Reproductive Technologies and genetic defects as well as neonatal outcomes.

Goals/learning objectives

At the end of this school, students will have acquired knowledge on the methodological and applicative aspects of Bioethics.

Therefore, students are expected to gain a better understanding of the toolbox for critically evaluating work in life sciences and medicine.



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Main topics

1. Bioethics as applied knowledge: historical profile and current approaches (Raimondi)
2. Arts and Spirituality for clinical management of the patient (Tagliaferri)
3. Fondazione Policlinico Universitario "A. Gemelli" IRCCS Perinatal Hospice: a multidisciplinary approach to fragile newborn (Noia)
4. Ethical relevance of Medical Anthropology (Refolo)
5. Health Technology Assessment and ELSI domains (Refolo)
6. Ethics of preclinical studies and animal welfare (Raspa)
7. Clinical experimentation: bioethical aspects (Sacchini)
8. Clinical Bioethics: history and methodologies (Sacchini)
9. Ethical relevance of bedside communication (Gallini)
10. Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Imprinting Defects (Zollino)
11. Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Neonatal Outcomes (Vento)
12. AI, Digital technologies and evidence-based medicine: bioethical issues (Refolo)
13. Fondazione Policlinico Universitario "A. Gemelli" IRCCS Clinical Ethics Consultation Service (Masilla)

Course requirements

Students are expected to attend lectures and participate in class discussions

Grading

Class participation	50% of final grade (pass/fail)
Mid-term Exam	25% of final grade
Final written exam	25% of final grade

Course readings and materials

Learning Updated literature provided by the instructors

Teaching methods

The teaching methods implement active learning activities, such as problem-based learning, self-learning, case studies.

Site visits

Visit to Radiotherapy Ward at "A. Gemelli" Teaching Hospital.



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Rules of conduct

Attendance: Attendance of at least 75% of the entire course is mandatory and this applies also to site visits'. An excused absence will only be granted if you are seriously ill and can support your claim with a local doctor's certificate dated the day you missed class (therefore you must go to the doctor that same day) that has to be delivered to the Professor or to Cattolica International Office. Fail to comply with this rule will result in your admission to the final exam.

Exam Dates: The exam dates cannot be re-scheduled. Should the dates of the final exams be moved for force major reasons, Cattolica International Office and the Professor will promptly inform you in class and/or via e-mail on the new date agreed. Unexcused absences to the exams will result in a failing grade in the course.

In cases of unforeseeable circumstances such as illness or injury on the day of the exams, you must submit a medical certificate and communicate your absence to the Professor and Cattolica International Office via email prior to the exam. If the student does not justify his/her absence through sufficient documentation and with adequate notice before the final test, you will receive an automatic Failed.

Absences for other unforeseeable circumstances will not be accepted and will result in a failing grade.

Bio of the instructors

Dario Sacchini

Associate Professor of Bioethics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Department of Healthcare Surveillance and Bioethics), where he teaches Bioethics in several bachelor and master degree courses, and is in charge of tutoring PhD students. He holds a documented scientific expertise in Bioethics, mostly focused on Health Technology Assessment ELSI domains, Clinical Ethics, Ethics of clinical experimentation. He has been involved in EU-funded research projects on ethically relevant topics since 2005. He is the author/co-author of many publications at international and national level.

Contact: dario.sacchini@unicatt.it

Pietro Refolo

Associate Professor of Bioethics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Department of Healthcare Surveillance and Bioethics), where he teaches Bioethics in several bachelor and master degree courses, and is in charge of tutoring PhD students. He holds a documented scientific expertise in Bioethics, mostly focused on Health Technology Assessment ELSI domains, Medical Anthropology. He has been involved in EU-funded research projects on ethically relevant topics since 2005. He is the author/co-author of many publications at international and national level.

Contact: pietro.refolo@unicatt.it

Costanza Raimondi

Adjunct Professor of Bioethics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Department of Healthcare Surveillance and Bioethics), where she teaches Bioethics in several bachelor and master degree courses. She holds a documented scientific expertise in Bioethics, mostly focused on Health Technology Assessment ELSI domains, Clinical Ethics. She has been involved in EU-funded research projects on ethically relevant topics since 2023. She is the author/co-author of several publications at international and national level.

Contact: costanza.raimondi1@unicatt.it



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Salvatore Simone Masilla

PhD Fellow in Bioethics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Department of Healthcare Surveillance and Bioethics). He holds a documented scientific expertise in Bioethics, mostly focused on Clinical Ethics. She is the author/co-author of several publications at international and national level.

Contact: salvatoresimone.masilla@unicatt.it

Marcello Raspa

Adjunct Professor at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and at University of Teramo. Head of Biological Resources at the Archive-Biorepository Unit and National Centre for Phenogenomics / Mouse Clinic (European Mouse Mutant Archive / Infrafrontier / IMPC) at National Research Council (CNR)- Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Monterotondo (RM), Italy.

Graduated in Veterinary Medicine, he held the position of executive technologist at CNR-IBBC (2021) and got a Master's degree (2024) at the Executive Masters in Management of Research Infrastructures (Bicocca University Milan; 2022-24). He trained and specialized as a pharmacologist and clinical-preclinical toxicologist at the Universities of Bologna and Perugia. He obtained a PhD in Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, at the University of Naples Federico II, in 1993; a Diploma of Specialization in Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Milan in 2000.

Member representing the CNR, for the National Commission for the Protection of Animals (CNPA – National Contact Point) used in research, Member of Expert Working Group on Genetically Altered Animals, DG Environment, European Commission, Brussels and member of CID-Ethics, CNR, National Committee for Integrity and Ethics on science and Research. President of AISAL and member of the Board of Management, FELASA. As a scientist, expert in large research infrastructures and cryobiologist, He actively collaborates with major global consortia and networks for Mutant Mouse Resources (EMMA/Infrafrontier), ICGEB (International Centre for genetic Engineering and Biotechnology) and phenogenomics programmes (IMPC - G7 report as model example of international research, 2015). He participates as head of unit and in collaboration with national and international organisations, universities and research groups in numerous research programmes.

Author of numerous publications in international journals, he is actively involved in the issues of the conscious and ethical use of animals in science and the 3R principles.

Contact: marcello.raspa@cnr.it – marcello.raspa@unicatt.it

Francesca Gallini

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics - Neonatology at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Department of Women, Children and Public Health Sciences), where she teaches Pediatrics, Neonatology and Effective Communication in Health Care in several bachelor and master degree courses. She is the Director of Neonatology Unit at “Ospedale Isola Tiberina- Gemelli Isola”, Rome. She holds a documented scientific expertise in Pediatrics and Neonatology mostly focused on Neurodevelopmental outcome of preterm infants and Relationship between clinicians and parents in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She is the author/co-author of many publications at international and national level.

Contact: francesca.gallini@unicatt.it - francesca.gallini@policlinicogemelli.it

Giuseppe Noia

He was Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome (Italy) and at the Department of Women, Children and Public Health Sciences “A. Gemelli” University



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Hospital of Rome (Italy).

Currently he is the coordinator of “A. Gemelli” University Hospital “Perinatal Hospice” Team aimed at the care of fragile newborn.

He is the author/co-author of many publications at international and national level.

Contact: giuseppe.noia@quest.policlinicogemelli.it - studio@noiaprenatalis.com

Luca Tagliaferri

He is currently researcher at UCSC and Head of Radiation oncology Ward Unit (UOC) at the Gemelli ART (Advanced Radiation Therapy) Center of the “A. Gemelli” University Hospital of Rome (Italy), addressing his clinical and research interests especially on interventional and metabolic radiotherapy. In his hospital, he is the referent of radiotherapy working team for head and neck, skin, thyroid and urologic cancer. Dr Tagliaferri is involved in multiple European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) Congresses and activities and became Chair of the Head & Neck and Skin GEC-ESTRO Working Group in 2018. He is member of GEC-ESTRO and ESTRO guidelines committee. He coordinated activities of the Italian Radiation Oncology Study Group for Metabolic Radiotherapy (2015-2016) and the Brachytherapy, Interventional Radiotherapy and Intraoperative Radiotherapy Working Group of the Italian Association of Radiation Oncology (AIRO) (2018-2019). Currently He is member of AIRO executive board. His research and clinical activity have led to more than 250 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals and book chapters. He obtained in 2018 the associate professor qualification and in 2021 the full professor qualification (ASN - National Scientific Qualification).

Contact: luca.tagliaferri@unicatt.it - luca.tagliaferri@policlinicogemelli.it

Giovanni Vento

Associate Professor in Pediatrics, Università Cattolica Sacro Cuore, where he teaches in several bachelor and master degree courses.

Director of the UOC of Neonatology and Neonatal Intensive Care of the Policlinico Universitario “A. Gemelli” IRCCS, Rome, Italy.

He obtained the full professor national qualification (ASN - National Scientific Qualification).

He is the author/co-author of many publications at international and national level.

Contact: giovanni.vento@unicatt.it - giovanni.vento@policlinicogemelli.it

Marcella Zollino

Associate Professor in Medical Genetics, Università Cattolica Sacro Cuore, where he teaches in several bachelor and master degree courses.

Head of the “Clinical Genetics of Intellectual Disability” Unit, Policlinico Universitario “A. Gemelli” IRCCS, Rome, Italy.

She obtained the full professor national qualification (ASN - National Scientific Qualification).

She is the author/co-author of many publications at international and national level.

Contact: marcella-zollino@unicatt.it - marcella.zollino@policlinicogemelli.it