Bemidji State University

BIOL 5339: Bioethics

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

In this online Bioethics course we will grapple with the many philosophical, ethical, and practical questions created by advances in medicine and biology using a combination of readings, case studies, scientific literature, and popular culture. The course has undergraduate and graduate sections and is intended for students in their Junior year of college or later. Topics include prenatal testing, abortion, assisted suicide, human augmentation/transhumanism, cloning, disability rights, animal rights, genetically modified organisms, and environmental ethics.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/21/2017 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction, ethical frameworks, value and resource allocation in the context of medical care and life-threatening emergencies, and social determinants of health.
2. The impact of human activity on the health and rights of non-human species
3. Personhood, normativity, and the rights to life, death, and health
4. Student projects

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. identify ethical and moral dilemmas in medical care, biology, and ecology, and the underlying moral themes from which the dilemmas arise.
2. analyze the individual impact that these issues can have on humans and non-human animals, and the societal impact on the law, social equality, civil liberties, and the common good.
3. recognize and apply distinct formal ethical approaches to bioethical dilemmas involving medical care, biotechnology, genetically modified crops and animals, and human genetic modification.
4. engage in constructive conversations with non-scientists about everyday applications of bioethics.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted