COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 34733
Name: Bioethics
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 4.5
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1206 - Degree in Dentistry	Facultat de Medicina i Odontologia	2	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1206 - Degree in Dentistry	Bioethics	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

Although medical ethics was born in Greece around the sixth and fifth centuries BC., especially within the Hippocratic school, the term "bioethics", was coined by the American oncologist Van Rensselaer Potter and had great diffusion from the publication of his book "Bioethics. A Bridge to the Future", published in 1971. The Encyclopedia of Bioethics defines it as "the systematic study of the moral dimensions -including moral vision, decisions, conduct, and policies- of the life sciences and health care, employing a variety of ethical methodologies in an interdisciplinary context." Bioethics is an essential discipline in the Degree of Dentistry, because it enables to recognize the moral problems that arise in the exercise of the profession, reflect on them and make decisions, together with patients, from the perspective of ethical values. In short, it enables dentists to be professionals, and not just technicians, because it helps them to know the goals that give meaning to their profession and to put at the service of those goals the knowledge and techniques they learn in the other subjects of the Degree (for example, Human Anatomy, Biology, Biochemistry, Surgical Pathology, Oral Surgery, Periodontics, etc.). It serves, therefore, to articulate all the studies of the Degree of Dentistry around the ends and principles of the profession.

The whole of professional practice is related to Bioethics, because it implies a way of exercising the profession, based on the four basic principles of good professional practice: non-maleficence, beneficence, autonomy and justice. Therefore, it complements the professional orientations that, in some way, must be

present in all subjects, but providing the specific knowledge of a subject that has been forged reflecting on the human dimension of action. On the other hand, it allows to know and analyze the professional ethical standards that are already contained in socially accepted codes, so that the raison d'être of the rules is understood and that they can be put into practice not for convenience, but by conviction. It also contributes as a new tool in making responsible decisions in the exercise of the dental profession, because modern dentistry is pressured by moral and social issues that significantly affect its daily practice. Undoubtedly some ethical issues are indispensable in dental practice: the prevention of oral diseases and oral health care for all people, both those who have means and those who lack them, informed consent, the need to have civil liability insurance, the existence of ethics and professional mediation committees, the need for performance protocols, etc. Finally, this subject aims to collaborate in the training of dental professionals also as citizens, knowledgeable of the civic ethics of a democratic and pluralistic society.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1206 - Degree in Dentistry

Know the essential elements of dentistry, including ethical principles and legal responsibilities.

Module: Introduction to Dentistry - Recognise that the patient is the centre of attention and that all interactions, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment planning and implementation and maintenance, should be in the patient's best interest, avoiding discrimination of any kind and respecting confidentiality.

Understand the importance of practising the profession with respect for the patient's independence, beliefs and culture.

Understand the importance of such principles for the best interests of the patient, society and the profession, with special attention to professional privacy.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. THEORY

1. The field of ethics. Ethics, politics, law, economics and religion. Fundamental ethics and applied ethics.

2. History and foundations of Bioethics. - Principles of bioethics and goals of medicine.

3. Methodology of analysis of cases in Dentistry. Values and basic principles. Deliberation.

4. Informed consent. Ethical bases and models of consent.

5. Confidentiality: professional secrecy and medical records.

6. Health justice. Ethics of health management: quality of care and conditions of exercise. Ethics in the allocation of resources.

7. Ethics of the dental company. Corporate social responsibility in an ethical perspective. Ethics of dental marketing.

8. Bioethics committees.

9. The patient dentist relationship. Ethics of relationships between health professionals.

10. Ethics of research and professional publications.

2.PRACTICAL SESSIONS

Seminars will be held on:

- Ethical analysis of practical cases in Dentistry from the perspective of moral values.
- Preparation of an informed consent form.
- Development of research protocols for evaluation by the ethics committee.
- Steps to follow when facing an ethical issue for assessment by the ethics commission.
- Analysis of international, national, and regional declarations and codes.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	25,00
Classroom practices	20,00
Total hours	**45,00**

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00

Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	0,00
Preparation of lessons	52,00
Preparation for assessment activities	11,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	**63,00**

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

1.Methodology of the theoretical sessions

1.1.- The lecturers will present the content of the sessions, seeking a balance between theoretical and practical issues

1.2.- The participation of students in class will be encouraged, asking them questions during the presentation, or answering the questions they ask.

1.3.- It will be verified, by means of constant dialogue, that the knowledge is being assimilated.

2.- Methodologies of the practical sessions.

2.1.- Seminars will be held in which students, with the help of the teaching staff, will work in groups or individually to analyse clinical cases, discuss possible solutions, draw up documents necessary for professional practice and present work of common interest.

2.2.- Attendance at extracurricular activities related to bioethics and held during the semester in which this subject is taught will be encouraged.

2.3.- The gender perspective, respect for diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be incorporated into teaching, whenever possible

EVALUATION

Theoretical component (80%)

- Evaluation of the theoretical component by means of a final test.

Practical component (20%)

- Continuous evaluation of participation in the seminars: 15 %.

- Attendance at external activities proposed by the teacher: 5%

Attendance at the practical activities is compulsory. Students are considered to comply with this requirement if they have attended at least 80% of these activities and have adequately justified the impossibility of attending the remaining sessions due to force majeure.

Students are reminded of the importance of carrying out the evaluation surveys to all the teaching staff of the degree courses.

REFERENCES

BASIC

- Beauchamp, Tom L. y James F. Childress, Principios de ética biomédica, Masson, Barcelona, 1999.
- Conill, Jesús, Horizontes de economía ética, Tecnos, Madrid, 2004.
- Cortina, Adela, Ética aplicada y democracia radical, Tecnos, Madrid, 1993. ¿Para qué sirve realmente la ética?, Paidós, Barcelona, 2013.
- Cortina, A., García-Marzá, D., (Ed.), Razón pública y éticas aplicadas. Los caminos de la razón práctica en una sociedad pluralista, Tecnos, Madrid, 2003.
- Couceiro, Azucena (ed.), Bioética para clínicos, Triacastela, Madrid, 1999.
- García Marzá, Domingo (dir.), La apuesta ética en las organizaciones sanitarias, Universitat Jaume I, Castellón, 2005.
- Gracia, Diego, Fundamentos de bioética, Triacastela, Madrid, 2008. - Procedimientos de decisión en ética clínica, Triacastela, Madrid, 2008.
- Gracia, Diego y Javier Júdez (eds.), Ética en la práctica clínica, Triacastela, Madrid, 2004.
- Martínez, Julio Luis (ed.), Comités de bioética, Dilemas éticos de la medicina actual nº 16, Universidad Pontificia de Comillas / Desclée De Brouwer, 2003.
- Simón Lorda, Pablo, El consentimiento informado, Triacastela, Madrid, 2000.
- Simón Lorda, Pablo (ed.), Ética de las organizaciones sanitarias. Nuevos modelos de calidad, Triacastela, Madrid, 2005.
- Siurana, Juan Carlos, La sociedad ética. Indicadores para evaluar éticamente una sociedad, Proteus, Barcelona, 2009.

INTERNATIONAL CODES AND DECLARATIONS

- Hippocratic Oath
- Nuremberg Code, 1946
- Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association, 1964 (2008)
- Belmont Report, 1978
- Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, October 19, 2005 ¿ 33rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference

SPANISH CODE OF DENTAL ETHICS AND DEONTOLOGY

- Spanish Code of Ethics and Dental Deontology. Approved by the General Council of Dentists of Spain, 2012

EUROPEAN REGULATIONS

- Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and the Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine
- Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine (Approved by the Committee of Ministers on November 19, 1996)

e-Health RESOURCES:

- ClinicalKey Student Medicine, Dentistry and Nursing [https://uv-es.libguides.com/RecursosSalut]
- Access Medicina [https://uv-es.libguides.com/Access_Medicina]
- Médica Panamericana [https://uv-es.libguides.com/Medica_Panamericana]