

ETHICS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Curso 2014/2015

(Código:30001588)

1.PRESENTACIÓN

The aim of this course is to discuss, on the one hand, how the advancement of science makes us reconsider a number of ethical dilemmas and, on the other hand, the role of ethics in our understanding of scientific activity. A case in point of the former is the advancement of neurosciences: they make us wonder, for instance, in what sense our conception of human responsibility depend on certain brain functions. As to the latter, we may wonder to what extent science is a disinterested activity in view of the conflicts of interests generated by the pharmaceutical sponsoring of biomedical research. We want to present here a number of approaches that will allow us to address both types of problems.

2.CONTEXTUALIZACIÓN

3.REQUISITOS PREVIOS RECOMENDABLES

If you want to follow this course in English, please do so only if you can read and write it correctly. Otherwise, we will transfer you to the Spanish-speaking section.

4.RESULTADOS DE APRENDIZAJE

The three main goals of this course are as follows. First, you should acquire a basic grasp of the main approaches in applied ethics. Then, you should study a few key concepts in scientific methodology and the social studies of science. Finally, you will prepare a book review, implementing what you have learnt so far, and discuss other reviews of the same book by your fellow students in a message board.

5.CONTENIDOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

The three main topics we will address in this course are:

1. Approaches in applied ethics
2. Normative issues in scientific research
3. Analysis and discussion of a book on ethics and science

6.EQUIPO DOCENTE

- [MARIA JIMENEZ BUEDO](#)
- [LAURA DELGADO VERGES](#)

7.METODOLOGÍA

The course is organized in four assignments: completing two questionnaires on the textbook, preparing a book review and discussing other reviews of the same book by your fellow students.

The student should first read the following book and answer two questionnaires about it (deadlines: March 15th, April 15th):

- Adam Briggles & Carl Mitcham, *Ethics and science*. An Introduction, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012

Then you should prepare a book review choosing one from the list below. It should be 1500 words long and the deadline for delivery is May 15th. Further instructions about its structure and content will be posted on ALF.

- Patricia Churchland, *Braintrust: What Neuroscience Tells Us about Morality*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2012.
- Ben Goldacre, *Bad Science*, London, Faber & Faber, 2010.

Finally, you should post your review in a dedicated message board, provide comments on the reviews of at least two of your fellow students and engage in the subsequent discussion. The deadline for this last assignments is June 15th.

8.BIBLIOGRAFÍA BÁSICA

Comentarios y anexos:

The textbook for the first two assignments is:

- Adam Briggles & Carl Mitcham, *Ethics and science*. An Introduction, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012

The student should choose one book in this list for the academic year 2013-2014:

- Patricia Churchland, *Braintrust: What Neuroscience Tells Us about Morality*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2012.
- Ben Goldacre, *Bad Science*, London, Faber & Faber, 2010.

We will post additional resources in ALF.

9.BIBLIOGRAFÍA COMPLEMENTARIA

10.RECURSOS DE APOYO AL ESTUDIO

11.TUTORIZACIÓN Y SEGUIMIENTO

David Teira

Office hours:

Monday: 16.00-20.00

Tuesday: 11.00-14.00, 16.00-20.00

Office: 2.30

Phone: 91 398 8392

E-mail: dteira@fsof.uned.es

Twitter (info about my office hours): https://twitter.com/DTS_UNED

12.EVALUACIÓN DE LOS APRENDIZAJES

Each of the aforementioned assignments is graded as follows:

Questionnaire 1: 30%

Questionnaire 2: 30%

Book review: 30%

Discussion: 10%

It is necessary to get five points over 10 in both questionnaires and the book review in order to pass this course.

The student will find further details in the instructions for each assignment posted in ALF

13.COLABORADORES DOCENTES

Véase equipo docente.

14.Competencias

- Aplicar el estudio detallado de las obras y temas de autores relevantes a la investigación filosófica, interactuando con profesores que están desarrollando tareas de investigación propias.
- Usar fuentes bibliográficas, primarias y secundarias, en el área del pensamiento filosófico; saber utilizar las bases de datos (en ambos casos tanto en papel como electrónicas) y aplicar estos conocimientos en la elaboración de trabajos académicos y de investigación filosófica.
- Dominar las bases metodológicas y los conocimientos que permitan la integración de los múltiples saberes filosóficos en un proyecto de trabajo personal.
- Poseer las habilidades de aprendizaje que les permitan continuar estudiando e investigando en cuestiones filosóficas de una manera autónoma y personal.

15.Actividades formativas

- Prácticas presenciales en línea
- Tutoría en línea

16.English

Due to a glitch in our enrolment application, we cannot translate the sections in the navigation bar. But the content is in English, Just click on the link in Spanish (the translation of the link, if you need it, is below)

Presentación = Course description

Contextualización = Introduction

Requisitos previos = Course requirements

Resultados Aprendizaje = Goals

Contenidos = Course content

Equipo Docente = Instructors

Metodología = Format & Assignments

Bibliografía Básica = Readings

Comentarios y Anexos = Comments

Bibliografía Complementaria = Further Readings

Comentarios y Anexos = Comments
Recursos de apoyo = Related resources
Tutorización = Office hours & Contact