



Facoltà/Istituto	Bioetica	
Ciclo/Livello	Licenza	
Anno del ciclo		Docente
Semestre	2	Prof. Michael Baggot and Prof. Lílian Santos
Orario lezioni		Indirizzo di posta elettronica
Crediti ECTS	1	michael.baggot@upra.org and lilian.santos@upra.org
Ore totali per lo studente	18	Orario di ricevimento
Lingua di insegnamento	Inglese	By appointment
DESCRIZIONE GENERALE		
<p>The course gives an overview of the contemporary transhumanist movement and provides a historical background to the movement’s main thinkers and branches. Students are invited to overcome interpretative bias to form a fair and balanced judgment of positive and negative elements of intellectual traditions distinct from their own. This course evidences the impact of Transhumanism on today’s Bioethics and argues that the Thomistic tradition of natural law virtue ethics can assimilate the positive aspects of contemporary Transhumanism and correct the limitations of the movement. The course also offers a bioethical evaluation of proposals for physical, cognitive, emotional, moral, and life span enhancements. Lastly, it proposes a methodology for constructive dialogue with the transhumanist movement.</p>		
LEARNING OUTCOMES (LO)		
<p>At the end of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• understand the basics of Transhumanism (definition, key transhumanists and their main ideas, currents, association, and main documents)• estimate the relevance and impact of Transhumanism on contemporary Bioethics• evaluate the main enhancement proposals (cognitive, physical, emotional, moral, and life span extension).• overcome interpretative bias to form a fair and balanced judgment of positive and negative elements of intellectual traditions distinct from their own.• manage some skills for an effective dialogue with "moral strangers"		
DISTRIBUZIONE DELL’IMPEGNO PREVISTO PER LO STUDENTE		
ATTIVITA’ IN AULA	STUDIO/LAVORO AUTONOMO	
<p>Lecture and formative assessments (do not affect the final grade):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lectures: Provide foundational knowledge on Transhumanism and Bioethics.• Case Studies: analyze real-world scenarios where transhumanist ideas have been applied or debated. Discuss the ethical implications and outcomes of these cases.• Discussion Groups (1-2-4): on motivations, tools, and best practices for dialogue with "moral strangers"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study of key texts and videos on Transhumanism and Bioethics (bibliography and resources).• Assignments (essay and presentation)	
MODALITÀ DI VERIFICA		

- **Participation in the class lectures and discussions (20%)**
- **Short essay (40%)**
Instructions: Write an essay (2000-2500 words long) related to the course themes.
- **Presentation (40%)**
Instructions: Create a presentation (7-10 slides) to illustrate key concepts and debates related to the subject of the course. It must include the definition and main notions of Transhumanism, at least one enhancement proposed by transhumanists and its impact on contemporary Bioethics. Format: PDF, Power Point, or link to multimedia resource).

CALENDARIO

No.	DATA	ATTIVITÀ
1	Feb 6	Introduction to the course and explanation of the syllabus Introduction to Transhumanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition • key transhumanists and their main ideas • currents and association • main documents <i>Instructional methods: Lecture</i>
2		
3	Feb 7	Relevance for Contemporary Bioethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • core transhumanist ideas impacting Bioethics • concrete enhancement proposals • ethical evaluation • Thomistic tradition of natural law virtue ethics <i>Instructional methods: Lecture, Case Studies (news)</i>
4		
5		
6	Feb 8	Dialogue with "Moral Strangers" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasons to participate • how to participate • some lessons <i>Instructional methods: Lecture, Discussion Groups on Procreative Beneficence</i>
7		
	April 9	Submit the assignments

OBBLIGATORIA

Essential bibliography:

- Bostrom, N. (s. f.). *Transhumanist Ethics*. Recuperado 10 de junio de 2020, de <https://nickbostrom.com/ethics/transhumanist.pdf>
- Bostrom, N. (2001). *What is transhumanism?* <https://www.nickbostrom.com/old/transhumanism.html>
- Bostrom, N. (2005a). In Defense of Posthuman Dignity. *Bioethics*, 19(3), 202-214. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8519.2005.00437.x>
- Bostrom, N. (2005b). Transhumanist Values. *Journal of Philosophical Research*, 30(9999), 3-14. https://doi.org/10.5840/jpr_2005_26
- Fukuyama, F. (2004). Transhumanism. *Foreign Policy*, 144, 42-43. JSTOR. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4152980>
- Hansell, G. R., & Grassie, W. (Eds.). (2011). *H+/-: Transhumanism and Its Critics*. Metanexus Institute. https://www.revistaperiferia.org/uploads/2/5/0/8/25082791/transhumanism_and_its_critics.pdf#page=136
- Humanity+. (2001). *Transhumanist FAQ 3.0*. Humanity+. <https://www.humanityplus.org/transhumanist-faq>
- Humanity+. (2009). *The Transhumanist Declaration*. Humanity+. <https://www.humanityplus.org/the-transhumanist-declaration>
- Vita-More, N. (2020). *The Transhumanist Manifesto (v.4)*. Humanity+. <https://www.humanityplus.org/the-transhumanist-manifesto>

CONSIGLIATA

Recommended bibliography:

- More, M. (2009). *A Letter to Mother Nature: Amendments to the Human Constitution*. <http://strategicphilosophy.blogspot.com/2009/05/its-about-ten-years-since-i-wrote.html>
- Postigo, E. (2009). Transumanesimo e postumano: Principi teorici e implicazioni bioetiche. *Vita e Pensiero. Medicina e Morale*, 2, 267-282.
- Rothblatt, M. (2011). *From Transgender to Transhuman: A Manifesto On the Freedom Of Form*. Martine Rothblatt.
- Sandberg, A. (2001, junio 22). *Morphological Freedom – Why We not just Want it, but Need it*. TransVision 2001, Berlin. <http://www.aleph.se/Nada/Texts/MorphologicalFreedom.htm>
- Sandberg, A. (2024). Future of Humanity Institute 2005-2024: Final report. *Future of Humanity Institute*, 92. <https://doi.org/10.5287/ora-ibpk0e5m5>
- Savulescu, J., Pugh, J., Douglas, T., & Gyngell, C. (2015). The moral imperative to continue gene editing research on human embryos. *Protein & Cell*, 6(7), 476-479. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13238-015-0184-y>