

Course Outline

Course number	RBE351					
Course title	Human Rights in Biomedicine					
Credit points	3 ECTS					
Total hours	75					
Contact hours	32					
Independent studies	43					
Course level	Bachelor					
Prerequisites	Human rights, alternatively, international law.					
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	х	Free elective	

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Santa Slokenberga	LL.D.	Associate Professor at Uppsala University, Sweden

COURSE TEACHERS

Name	Academic degree	Academic position
Santa Slokenberga	LL.D.	Associate Professor at Uppsala University, Sweden
Experts in particular questions may be involved in the course		

COURSE ABSTRACT

This course provides opportunities for studying the synergies between biomedicine and human rights from a European legal perspective. The focus lies on internationally and regionally protected human rights and the ethical, social, and policy challenges and opportunities that biomedical interventions bring to a complex social reality. It also accounts for diverse national regulatory practices. Additionally, the focus lies on the tools and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding human rights in a biomedical context.

A central area of inquiry is how law balances and should balance competing rights and interests at stake in connection to diverse biomedical interventions. The course clusters, therefore, around the following questions:

- How do human rights protect dignity, integrity, and other rights in the biomedical context?
- How do human rights shape and how could shape regulatory responses to diverse biomedical interventions?
- What obligations do human rights place on the states, and what protections do they provide for individuals in biomedicine?
- What are the possibilities for dealing with human rights violations in a biomedical context?

These questions are studied through various substantive aspects of biomedical law, such as the beginning of human life and the use of various reproductive technologies and their implications. It also covers questions about scientific experiments, clinical research, and participation in clinical trials, the use of data-intense technologies and AI in biomedicine, new and well-established reproductive technologies and services, human genome protection, transplantation regulation, and end-of-life law.

Teaching and learning activities will take place in the form of lectures and seminars. The main part of the teaching is conducted in seminar form, following a flipped classroom model. This means that the students are expected to be prepared for each class according to the provided instructions.

GRADING CRITERIA

The course will be assessed through class activities, a reflection & question portfolio, and an in-class exam.

Students are expected to attend all classes in person, including those delivered online. In the event of an absence, students are required to submit an essay on a relevant topic. With the essay substitution, a maximum of 4 out of 16 classes may be missed. Students who miss more than four classes will not be permitted to sit for the final exam.

Reflection & question portfolio. Prior to each set of classes, students are expected to draft a reflection paragraph concerning a question or issue that the two courses of a day cover and suggest at least two questions for discussion or have two statements (e.g., points of view) on the topic to share with others. At the end of the course, all eight reflection papers shall be compiled into a portfolio and submitted.

Whereas generative AI may be used, the student is responsible for the quality of the work submitted. Independent work, in particular, work containing human authorship traits matching the average student's knowledge level, weighs heavily in the assessment. Whereas the reflection & question page must be ready for the class and presented, it shall not be submitted before the end of the course. In case an AI system is used, full disclosure is required.

Class activity, including group work, will be assessed based on student participation and preparation in accordance with the provided class instructions. Details regarding the group work will be provided at the start of the course.

The final exam will cover the full scope of the course material. It will be a closed-book, in-class exam consisting of several questions to be completed within a two-hour time limit. Evaluation will be based on the knowledge acquired throughout the course.

Criteria	Weighting
Class activities: attendance and active participation	25%
Reflection & question portfolio	25%
Exam	50%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
	Foundations & Frameworks (classes 1, 2)	10
	Biomedical interventions and human rights challenges (classes 3-15)	65
	Critical Reflections and Legal Dynamics (class 16)	5