

BIOETHICS

Bioethics is a one-semester science elective course.

Ethics is the activity of deciding what one should do, as an individual and a member of a community and offering reasons to support the decision.

Bioethics is a subfield of ethics that explores ethical questions related to the life sciences. Bioethical analysis helps people make decisions about their behavior and about policy questions that governments, organizations, and communities must face when they consider how best to use new biomedical knowledge and innovations.

The main goals of this class are:

- Advance student's science understanding
- Recognize the importance of scientific knowledge in bioethical decision making
- Prepare students to make informed, thoughtful choices
- Promote respectful dialogue among people with diverse views
- Cultivate critical-reasoning skills

These goals will be achieved through the use of case studies. Students will be graded on their participation in small-group and whole-class discussions, small group activities, and written assignments. Most Fridays will be reserved for current events that are applicable to this course. These can be student or teacher-driven topics. The semester test will be project based.

Practice and skill-building	25 pts each
Application of skills	50 pts each
Decision making	75 pts each

1st Nine Weeks

Students are first introduced to ethics as a discipline, what constitutes an ethical question, and the idea that values serve as a basis for behavior and contribute to decision-making. The Principles of Bioethics are then introduced, followed by the concept of stakeholders. Students learn how to generate options to resolve an ethical dilemma and learn how to write a strong justification for their position. New concepts are layered on in each lesson; students practice known concepts while being introduced to new ones. Finally, students synthesize all the concepts and apply them to a new case study.

2nd Nine Weeks

Students apply what they have learned to one or more specific science modules. Choices may include the following:

- Humans in Research
- Animals in Research
- The Social Nature of Scientific Research
- The Science and Ethics of Stem Cell Research