

Universities in Helsinki, Finland



HELSINKI SUMMER SCHOOL spells high quality academics combined with a wide range of cultural and social activities. Our multidisciplinary courses, all taught in English, aim at stimulating thought and intellectual development in an open and diverse environment. A city known for its design, technology and vibrant cultural life, Helsinki is sure to be the experience of a lifetime.



## HELSINKI SUMMER SCHOOL

August 9 to 25

# 2011

Thinking Allowed



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Organizer



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

## INTRODUCTION TO BIOETHICS

6 ECTS

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Research on biosciences and biotechnologies has evolved vastly during the past few decades. Today, biosciences and their novel applications have an enormous impact on society as they shape our understanding of life, death, sickness, health, and environmental sustainability. The rise of new medical technologies, such as stem cell therapies and nanotechnology, forces us to study their influence on our worldview and concepts of life. Likewise, the environmental crisis compels us to reconsider our relationship to nature.

Bioethics is a philosophical study of the ethical controversies brought about by the above mentioned advances in biology and medicine. Bioethicists attempt to answer the ethical questions that arise in the relationships between life sciences, biotechnology, medicine, politics, law, philosophy, and theology. As a movement, bioethics began in the late 1960's – during an era of intense social upheaval in North

America. Since that period, bioethics movement has taken the form of an academic discipline.

The course introduces students to the history of bioethics, to the role of various theories and approaches in bioethics, to medical, environmental and technological ethics as well as to ethical questions related to novel biotechnologies. The students will be also introduced to biolaw and its developments.

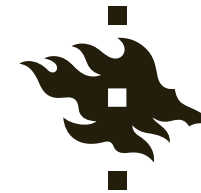
The Introduction to Bioethics is designed for BA, MA and doctoral students. It is intended for students who can tie in bioethics with their primary field of study such as philosophy, theology, ethics, medicine, biosciences, law or adjacent fields.

The course consists of lectures, case-based workshops, reading, and a study journal that will be completed during the course. Prior to the course, all students are asked to write an orientation paper

(two to three pages) on the basis of given reading.

University of Helsinki has become a prominent centre for the study of bioethics, medical ethics, and biolaw. Professor Jaana Hallamaa (social ethics) and Professor Raimo Lahti (biolaw) have lead the research project “Towards a Sustainable Stem Cell Research Culture”, funded by the Academy of Finland. The research project has several postdoctoral researchers and PhD candidates, many of whom will be teaching in the course together with Prof. Hallamaa, Prof. Lahti and University Lecturer Pekka Louhiala who is an internationally recognized teacher of medical ethics. The other lectures' names will be announced in the spring of 2011.

Teacher in charge:  
University lecturer Ville Päivänsalo  
Coordinator:  
PhD candidate Karoliina Nikula



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University of Helsinki  
Department of Systematic Theology