

Course title: Bioethics and Public Awareness				
Course code: BBP 171		No. of credits: 1	L-T-P: 14-0-0	Learning hours: 14
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Department: Department of Biotechnology				
Course coordinator: Dr K.P Kochhar			Course instructor: Dr K.P Kochhar	
Contact details: kpkochhar6@gmail.com				
Course type: Core			Course offered in: Semester 3	
Course description: The present course is structured as two distinct modules. The first module seeks to sensitize the candidates to wider issues concerning the ethics in biotechnology. The topics covered would explore the socio-economic issues relating to biotechnology and their broader impact on the society. The ethics relating to transparency in scientific validation of regulatory procedures shall form a critical aspect of the course as also topics concerning research priorities and ownership issues. Stem cell transplantation, xeno-transplantation and the impact of rDNA based medicines on the public morality would be discussed. The second module of this course shall emphasize on the mechanisms for generating public awareness in biotechnology and importance of effective communication strategies especially from the point of view of agriculture biotechnology.				
Course objectives:				
Course contents				
S.No	Topic	L	T	P
Module 1: Bioethics				
1	Overview of Bioethics and ethical issues in biotechnology	2	0	0
2	Socio-economic issues and broader impact on society	2	0	0
3	Transparency and Scientific Validation on regulatory procedures	1	0	0
4	Research priorities and ownership issues	2	0	0
Module 2: Public Awareness and communication strategies				
1	Developing effective communication strategies	3.5		
2	Dissemination of effective Scientific information in common language	3.5		
	Total	14	0	0
Evaluation criteria:				
1.	Term Paper:	30%		
2.	Minor test:	10%		
3.	End semester	60%		
Learning outcomes:				
Materials:				
1. Ethical aspects of agricultural biotechnology (1999) EFB Task Group on Public Perceptions of Biotechnology, Cambridge Biomedical Consultants				
2. Report of the panel of eminent experts on ethics in food and agriculture (2000) Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations Rome (2001) Editing, design, graphics and desktop publishing: Editorial Group FAO Information Division				
3. Thompson P (1995) The spirit of the soil: agriculture and environmental ethics. London, Routledge				
4. Sagar A, Daemmrich A and Ashiya M (2000) The tragedy of the commoners: biotechnology and its publics. Nature Biotechnology 18: 2-4				
5. Members of Working Group, Nuffield Council on Bioethics (2004) The use of genetically modified crops in developing countries				
6. Weblink (AgBIOS home Page): http://www.agbios.com/articles.php provides a comprehensive compilation of relevant articles, studies, reports, reviews and proceedings related to Agriculture biotechnology and regulations including Ethics in Agricultural Biotechnology				
Additional information (if any):				

Student responsibilities:

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Class attendance.2. Study of course materials as specified by the instructor. |
|---|

Course reviewers:

The course is reviewed and commented by the following experts.

1. Dr. Morven A. McLean, President, AGBIOS Inc
2. Dr. Sanjeev Kalia (Monsanto India Inc.)
3. Dr. Veena Chhotray (Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Chairman, Genetic Engineering Approval Committee, Presently Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment)