

Module variant to: Foundations of Biology

Module: Introduction to Bioethics of Human Remains, Tissues and DNA			
University/Department/Teaching Unit: Freie Universität Berlin/Department of Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy/Biology			
Module coordinator: Vanessa Hava Schulmann			
Prerequisites: none			
Learning objectives: Students gain an understanding of how to approach bioethical questions using a variety of topics relating to human "material" (human remains, human tissues, DNA) as examples. Students can navigate current debates and understand their historical backgrounds. Importantly, students will gain a broader understanding of bioethics, which includes social injustices (e.g. structural racism, exploitation, genocide). Students will be able to identify these continuities in current debates and critically reflect upon yet unquestioned practices in biology and related fields.			
Content: The module gives an overview of bioethical topics related to human "material", such as: (1) human remains from various contexts being used in research and teaching (2) emergence of race and genetic ancestry concepts (3) human "material" (stem cells, gametes, DNA etc) regarding research and exploitation (4) questions of self-ownership and data privacy. The Seminar will introduce said topics using original literature and other contents (book chapters, short films, popular media). In the Übung, students will explore these topics practically, such as: (1) discussing whether particular human remains from the FU Zoological Collection may be used in teaching (2) discussing papers (3) visiting an exhibition and reflecting on it.			
Modes of instruction	Contact hours (hours per week during the semester)	Types of active participation	Workload (in hours)
Seminar (S)	1	–	Class attendance (seminar) 15 Preparation, before and after (seminar) 15
Practice sessions (Ü)	2	Carrying out and documenting experiments	Class attendance (practice session) 30 Preparation, before and after (practice session) 15 Exam preparation and exam 75
Module assessment		Written exam (60 minutes), wholly or partially in multiple-choice format; can also be carried out electronically or written report on research results (approx. 10 pages) or examination colloquium (approx. 20 minutes)	
Language		English	
Regular attendance required		yes	
Total workload		150 hours	5 credit points
Duration		one semester	
Frequency		irregular	
Applicability		Master's degree program M.Sc. Biology	

Utilization in the following specializations (decision by the examining board):

Biodiversity, Evolution and Ecology	
Genetics and Genomics	x
Microbiology	
Molecular- and Cellular Biology	x
Molecular Plant Sciences	
Neurobiology	
Biology	x

U. Leach