

BIO-455 : Introduction to law and ethics
Teachers : Sandra Hotz and Elodie Malbois
Semestre : **Automne 2025**

Instructions for group work

The group assignment consists of answering the following four questions, related to course material:

1. Should the regulations and ethical principles for research with animals be the same as for humans?
2. Is the use of cognitive enhancement purely an individual and private matter that the state should not regulate?
3. What is the right not to know, and what does it mean in the age of genomics?
4. What are the legal and ethical challenges of research involving individuals who lack the capacity to give informed consent (e.g., children)?

Answering those questions will help you master the course material, practice applying relevant concepts and ideas in your thinking, and prepare for the exam.

Teams

Each group consists of 4 students. Each student works individually on one of the questions. Please specify the name of the student on the essay itself.

Length of group work, language, and references

Each essay has a length between 750 and 1000 words (excluding references)

Texts can be written in English, French or German

References must be cited in the text and listed at the end of the report following an academic style of choice. References used but not cited must also be listed.

Group comments

Each student reads and comments on another text. When reading another student's text, consider the following points:

- Is the text well structured?
- Is the thesis or main idea clearly stated and defended?
- Has the author understood the subject and the literature?
- Have the underlying fundamental concepts been correctly identified and defined, where necessary?
- Does the author reflect on the subject independently and critically?
- Are any potential objections anticipated and addressed?

- Is the text correct in terms of form (language, citations, bibliography, etc.)?
- Do you find the arguments given convincing? Where do you see major problems or objections?

Provide **constructive** and detailed feedback to the author of the text you have read so that they can improve their text within the deadline.

Group work evaluation

The evaluation of the group work is individual. Each question is assessed based on the following criteria:

A. Identification of relevant concepts/ideas

- A1. Insufficient = 1.5
- A2. Sufficient = 2
- A3. Complete = 2.5

B. Reference to legal bases and ethical principles

- B1. Insufficient = 1.5
- B2. Sufficient = 2
- B3. Complete = 2.5

C. Critical reflection and argumentation

- C1. Absent = 0
- C2. Poor = 0.5
- C3. Substantial = 1

D. Formatting

- - If instructions are not followed: -0,5

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR GROUP WORK

OCTOBER 7, 2025: Deadline for forming groups (register the group composition on Moodle).

Please note: Groups consist of four people. If no group is formed, random assignment will occur.

NOVEMBER 26, 2025: Deadline for drafting texts; send the text to at least one other person in the group for comments.

DECEMBER 3, 2025: Deadline for commenting on a text written by a member of your group and sending comments.

DECEMBER 10, 2025 (midnight): Deadline for submitting the group report (submit the report on Moodle). Send **one** PDF to Sandra Hotz and Elodie Malbois per email and cc. all group members.

Questions and other requests

If you have any questions, please contact the teaching assistant in the first instance.

If you have any questions about the course content, please contact the teachers.