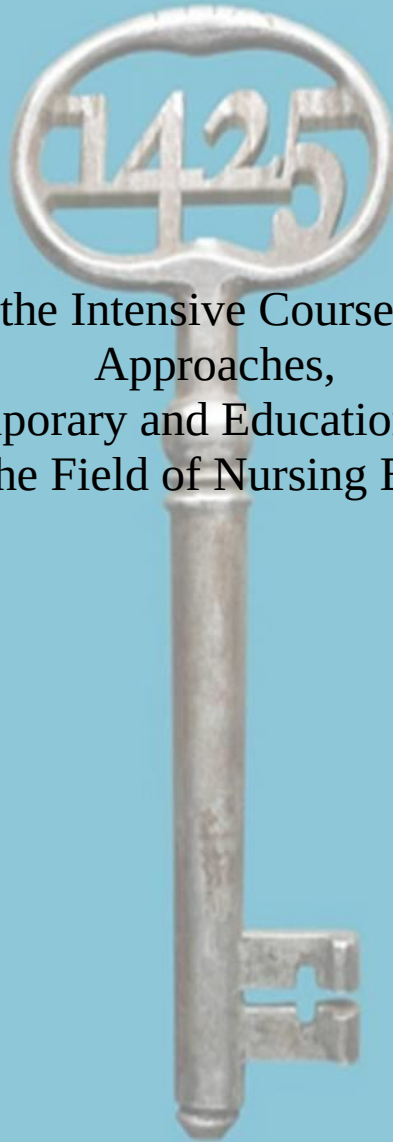




1-4 December 2026
Leuven, Belgium

NURSING ETHICS



14th Edition of the Intensive Course on Foundational
Approaches,
Contemporary and Educational Issues
in the Field of Nursing Ethics

Course Coordinator
Chris Gastmans, PhD



STAFF

Organised by	Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law Faculty of Medicine KU Leuven, Belgium
Staff	Carlos Gómez-Virseda, MD Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, KU Leuven; Pellegrino Centre for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University Medical Centre, Washington DC, USA Chris Gastmans, PhD Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, KU Leuven Alice Cavolo, PhD Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, KU Leuven Yvonne Denier, PhD, Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, KU Leuven Leen Kriekemans, MA Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, KU Leuven

CENTRE FOR BIOMEDICAL ETHICS AND LAW

The Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law is composed of a team of experts in medical ethics, medical law, sports ethics, communication ethics, and history of medicine. The Centre aims to provide education, conduct research, and offer scientific and societal service in these fields. Established in 1986, it celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2026 (www.cbmer.be).



BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Since the early 1980s, nursing ethics has evolved significantly and is now firmly established as a key area within applied ethics. The unique roles nurses hold in healthcare, along with their specialized knowledge and responsibilities, frequently place them at the forefront of ethically sensitive situations.

The aim of this course is to foster discussions on foundational and methodological approaches as well as on contemporary and educational issues in nursing ethics. Specifically, the course objectives are:

- (1) To analyse *key concepts* central to nursing ethics, such as care, moral practice, the human person, vulnerability, dignity, and trust. This will provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical and ethical foundations of nursing practices.
- (2) To educate participants on a range of ethical issues that are central to *contemporary debates* in nursing ethics, including nursing ethics perspectives on end-of-life care and on care for older adults. These topics will be explored from both philosophical-ethical perspective and empirical-ethical perspectives.
- (3) To introduce participants into *methodological and educational aspects* of nursing ethics.
- (4) To facilitate exchanges among national and international experts regarding new developments in nursing ethics.

FORMAT

This course adopts an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating philosophy, theology, nursing, as well as both normative and empirical ethics. Throughout the course, national and international experts will deliver presentations on a range of topics related to nursing ethics. Ample time will be allocated for in-depth discussions and interaction. The language of instruction will be English.

PARTICIPANTS

The course is designed for participants from diverse professional backgrounds, including nursing, medicine, philosophy and theology, psychology, social work, health care administration. It is open to health care and social workers, university and university college staff, members of ethics committees, and PhD students in these fields.

The reading materials will be distributed electronically prior to the start of the intensive course.



PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 1 December 2026
Foundational Issues

9h00-9h30: Welcome

9h30-11h00: Introduction into Nursing Ethics
Chris Gastmans

11h00-11h30: Break

11h30-13h00: Foundational Approaches to Nursing Ethics
Chris Gastmans

13h00-14h00: Lunch

14h00-15h00: Foundational Approaches to Nursing Ethics
Chris Gastmans

15h00-15h30: Break

15h30-16h30: Foundational Approaches to Nursing Ethics: Small Group Discussions
Chris Gastmans





PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 2 December 2026
Contemporary and Educational Issues

9h00-10h30: Telepalliative Care: What Are the Ethical Issues?

Leen Kriekemans

10h30-11h00: Break

11h00-12h30: Telepalliative Care: What Are the Ethical Issues? Small Group Discussions

Leen Kriekemans

12h30-13h30: Lunch

13h30-15h00: The Morally Competent Nurse: Perspectives of Nurses and Patient Representatives

Chris Gastmans

15h00-15h30: Break

15h30-16h30: PROMOCON: PROMoting a MORally COmpetent Nurse: Small Group Discussions

Chris Gastmans





PROGRAMME

Thursday, 3 December 2026 Foundational and Contemporary Issues

9h00-10h30: Relational Autonomy: What Does It Mean and How Is It Used in Health Care?

Carlos Gómez-Virseda

10h30-11h00: Break

11h00-12h30: Relational Autonomy: What Does It Mean and How Is It Used in Health Care?

Carlos Gómez-Virseda

12h30-13h30: Lunch

13h30-15h00: Resuscitation for Extremely Premature Infants: What Are the Ethical Issues?

Alice Cavolo

15h00-15h30: Break

15h30-17h00: Resuscitation for Extremely Premature Infants: What Are the Ethical Issues?

Alice Cavolo

19:00: Dinner in the Faculty Club [www.facultyclub.be/en/], Grand Beguinage of Leuven (listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List)





PROGRAMME

Friday, 4 December 2026
Contemporary Issues

9h00-10h30: Moral Distress and Moral Leadership in Health Care
Yvonne Denier

10h30-11h00: Break

11h00-12h00: Moral Distress and Moral Leadership in Health Care
Yvonne Denier

12h00-13h00: Lunch and Farewell





VENUE

Park Inn by Radisson Leuven Hotel

Martelarenlaan 36, 3010 Leuven, Belgium

- <http://www.Parkinn.com/hotel-leuven>
- Info.leuven@parkinn.com
- Tel. 00 32 16 61 66 00

[Book your room here](#)

REGISTRATION

The fee for the on-campus course will be € 950 if you register and pay as a participant before October 15th 2026, € 1050 for registration and payment from October 15th 2026 onwards. Reduced registration fee for participants from Eastern Europe and Low or Middle Income Countries is € 750 (before October 15th) and € 850 (from October 15th onwards). This fee includes tuition and course materials, as well as refreshments, four lunches and a dinner. Deadline for registration and payment: November 15th 2026.

Detailed information on registration and payment can be found at our website:

<https://www.kuleuven.be/english/summer-schools/nursing-ethics> or at www.cbmer.be under *Intensive Course in Nursing Ethics*.

Participants are expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Erasmus+ provides funding opportunities for students and trainees, as well as for professors, teachers, trainers, staff of education institutions and civil society organisations to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country. For further information please refer to

- http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm#hp_guide

INFORMATION

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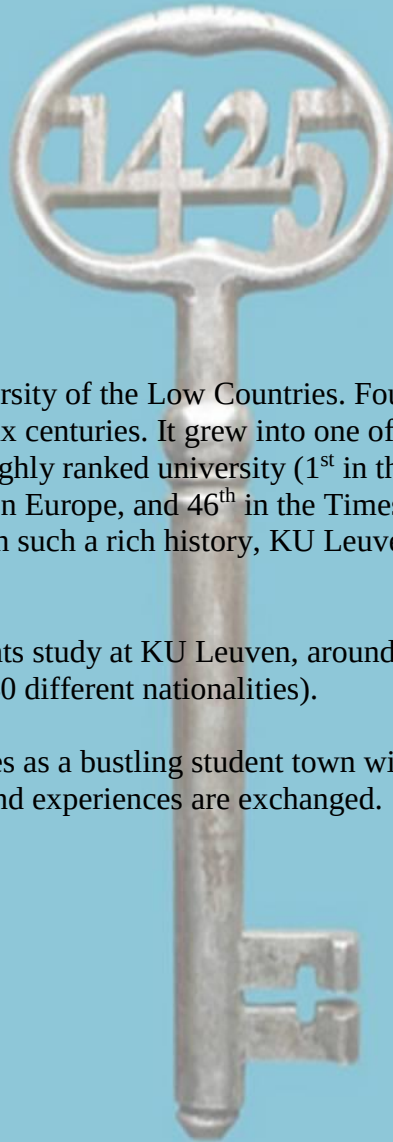
Belgium

E-mail: Chris.Gastmans@kuleuven.be ; Evelyne.Mertens@kuleuven.be

www.cbmer.be



KU LEUVEN



KU Leuven is the oldest university of the Low Countries. Founded in 1425, KU Leuven has been a center of learning for six centuries. It grew into one of the largest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a highly ranked university (1st in the Reuters World Ranking of Most Innovative Universities in Europe, and 46th in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2026) with such a rich history, KU Leuven has its own dynamic international dimension.

At present, over 64.476 students study at KU Leuven, around 16.791 of whom are international students (over 140 different nationalities).

To this day, KU Leuven thrives as a bustling student town with a strong international allure, where various cultures meet and experiences are exchanged.

www.kuleuven.be