GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Philosophy of Science II (A000911)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Weber, Erik	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
Lefevere, Merel	LW01	staff member
Mennes, Julie	LW01	co-lecturer
Zahidi, Karim	LW01	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Causation, scientific explanation.

Position of the course

This advanced course gives insight into some fundamental problems in general philosophy of science, combined with insight on how philosophy of science can be done.

Contents

(1) The following topics are dealt with in the lectures:
Theories of Scientific Explanation
How to Study Explanation?
Theories of Causation
How to Study Causation?
(2) In the seminars, exercises on these topics are made.
(3) Students write a paper on a topic in philosophy of science that is related to the research of one of the teachers.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course Philosophy of Science I or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

1 Insight into some fundamental problems in general philosophy of science.
2 Insight on how philosophy of science can be done.
3 Ability to write an academic paper on a topic in the philosophy of science.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Classes are not recorded.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Scientific Explanation
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 99
Online Available : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally
Additional information: This book is available on Ufora.

Type: Syllabus

Name: Causation
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

The course material is partly taken from the book *Scientific Explanation* (Erik Weber, Jeroen Van Bouwel & Leen De Vreese, Springer, 2013).

Course content-related study coaching

Done by the teachers responsible for the course.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

60% oral exam, 40% paper
The student has to succeed in both parts in order to obtain a credit.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled
3. No alternative time for feedback

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy