GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

History of Modern Philosophy (A003408)

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

Van de Vijver, Gertrudis	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
Bleys, Kjell	LW01	staff member
Haeck Gormez, Levi	LW01	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A
Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Modern philosophy, philosophical anthropology, political philosophy, social philosophy, moral philosophy, philosophy of history.

Position of the course

In the BA programmes Philosophy and Moral Sciences, this course is part of the modules “History and Text” (Philosophy) and “Philosophical Coourses (Moral Sciences). In this course students gain a more detailed overview of an important period in the history of philosophy through direct contact with primary texts. This provides students with a more in-depth knowledge of modern philosophy and a deeper understanding of some philosophical problems, concepts and arguments from this period. In addition, this course aims to teach students the skills needed to independently read, understand, analyse and evaluate philosophical texts from this period.

Contents

This course covers important (early) modern approaches to problems in the philosophical subdisciplines of philosophical anthropology, social and political philosophy, moral philosophy, and philosophy of history.
During the lectures, primary texts by Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Immanuel Kant, and (possibly) Mary Wollstonecraft and others are placed in their historical context and read, commented on and discussed in class. In addition to the classroom processing of these texts, students read a text that is not discussed during the lectures independently in small groups (cartels).

Initial competences

This course is offered in the model programme in the first semester of the second Bachelor's programme. Students are expected to have a basic understanding of the history of philosophy and its periodisation and to be able to situate the modern period within this context, as well as to have already acquired a basic knowledge of general philosophical concepts and a basic competence in philosophical argumentation.
In addition, students are expected to have a good passive knowledge of English and French in addition to the language of instruction (Dutch). Passive knowledge of

German is recommended but not required.

Final competences

1 Familiarity with important philosophical concepts, positions and arguments in the early modern period.
2 Ability to situate the concepts, positions and arguments within these discussions in their context and relate them to each other, with attention to their contemporary relevance.
3 The ability to correctly characterize these concepts, positions, and arguments in one's own words.
4 The ability to independently read (early) modern philosophical texts, to identify their main concepts, theses, and arguments, and to characterize the latter in one's own words.

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

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

In the lectures, primary philosophical texts (or excerpts thereof) are discussed and analysed interactively under the supervision of the lecturers. Students are expected to prepare well for the lectures and to participate actively in the discussions during the lectures.
The group work consists of independently reading and discussing, in small groups and without supervision from the lecturers, a to-be-specified primary text.
Given the methodology used in the lessons—namely, interactive teaching - we will consult the group at the start of each academic year to find out whether and how they would like lessons to be recorded. We propose a default policy of 'no lesson recordings'.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Extended bibliography in reader.

Course content-related study coaching

By appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with open questions

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam: 100%

Facilities for Working Students

For more information concerning flexible learning:http: //www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuderen