GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2025-2026

Analysis of Texts from Modern and Contemporary Philosophy: Anglo-American Tradition (A005206)

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 2)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Van de Vijver, Gertrudis	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
Andriessen, Cato	LW01	staff member

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

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

- Analytical philosophy
- Analytical philosophy of language
- Gottlob Frege
- Bertrand Russell
- Saul Kripke
- Ludwig Wittgenstein
- Meaning
- Reference
- Rigid designators

Position of the course

This course consists in a thoroughgoing study — both in class and independently — of a selection of foundational texts from the history of analytical philosophy. We will analyse the content of these texts, and situate them historically.

Contents

In class, we focus on three texts:
- 'Uber Sinn und Bedeutung' by Gottlob Frege (1892)
- 'On Denoting' by Bertrand Russell (1905)
- 'Naming and Necessity' by Saul Kripke (1970)

We will comment on and discuss a selection of fragments from these texts. Topics that will come up, include:
- The relation between epistemology and ontology
- Which philosophical assumptions and methods can we see at work in these texts?
- The role of logic and language in the analytical tradition
- The origins of the analytical tradition
- The historical evolution of the analytical tradition
- The philosophical background against which the analytical tradition came to be

Besides the treatment of these three texts in class, students will read the 'Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus' (1921) by Ludwig Wittgenstein in autonomous groups (cartels). This text will be discussed in group at the end of the semester.

Initial competences

Familiarity with elementary formal logic is recommended, as taught in the course 'Logic I' (or equivalent)

Final competences

1 Having insight in core aspects of the historical origins and evolution of the analytical tradition in philosophy
2 Having insight in central concepts and issues from analytical philosophy of language
3 Reading, understanding, and analysing philosophical texts autonomously
4 Fruitfully interpreting philosophical texts
5 Comparing the problems and arguments of different philosophical texts
6 Orally debating the interpretation of philosophical texts in a constructive fashion

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- During the lectures and seminars, we discuss the texts of Frege, Russell, and Kripke
- The group work consists in reading the 'Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus' in small reading groups

No lecture recordings will be provided.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Study of texts out of modern and contemporary philosophy: Anglo-American tradition.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Number of Pages : 100
Available on Ufora : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : Yes
Additional information: Tractatus available via KMF

References

Course content-related study coaching

- Students will be assisted in the organization and progress of the reading groups
- Outside the classes, interactive support is provided through Ufora, in the guise of discussion fora where students can ask and discuss questions, and receive replies from the teachers
- Additional assistance is possible after appointment

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

Oral assessment, Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

- End-of-term: Oral exam without written preparation. Students receive two questions from a list that will be communicated in advance. They are allowed to use notes during the exam.
- Continuous: Report and group discussions about the reading of Wittgenstein's

'Tractatus Logico-Philosphicus' in the reading groups; participation during the course.

If one does not participate in the evaluation of one or more of the subparts of the course, one can no longer pass the course as a whole. If in this case the final grade is higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-deliberable grade.

Calculation of the examination mark

60% end-of-term, 40% continuous

Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the cours
- No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus, without recordings)
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period
- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment

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