GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Introduction to Philosophical and Moral Scientific Research (A006792)

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 (Year)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Weber, Erik	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
Lefevere, Merel	LW01	staff member
Vercoutere, Sofie	LW01	staff member

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
Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Philosophy, moral Science, research skills, reporting skills, academic integrity.

Position of the course

This annual course is the first step for students in acquiring research and reporting skills, both in general and more specifically within philosophy and/or moral science.
A wide range of skills are covered. Theoretical background knowledge is of course provided, but the emphasis is on practice (exercises).
All skills are further practiced, but also strengthened and deepened, throughout the first bachelor year and in the higher years of the courses. This happens in thematic course units, but also in the bachelor's thesis and master's thesis.
Not all skills that are important for philosophers and moral scientists are already covered in this introductory course. Additional skills, including writing an academic text within the subject areas, are acquired at a later stage of the programme.

Contents

Introduction to the physical and digital library and relevant databases within the domain of philosophy and moral science.
Become familiar with research questions and have insight into different types of research questions (analytical, descriptive, normative, etc.).
Definition of plagiarism, paraphrasing, and citing (with exercises).
Scientific and intellectual integrity and responsible use of AI in writing a research paper: critical situating, pitfalls and transparency statement.
Recognizing the structure of a research paper.
Argumentation in a research paper: recognizing argumentation in a text (fallacies), argumentation mapping, ...
Overview of bibliographic styles and uses of the bibliographic and research software systems. Peer review and dealing with and providing feedback.
Final editing of a research paper.
Introduction to the field of the philosopher and moral scientist.
The characteristics of academic publications and related papers versus other types of texts: academic style, vocabulary and jargon, clarity and precision, integrity, reliability, handling of sources and literature.
Dealing with writing stress.

Writing and reading strategies.
Developing basic oral academic skills.

Initial competences

Starting competences are the final attainment levels of secondary education (or a comparable level).

Final competences

1 Students are able to recognize philosophical and moral scientific problems and research questions.
2 Students can search, collect, read and process qualitative and relevant Dutch and foreign-language professional literature.
3 Students are familiar with the most important (digital and non-digital) databases and catalogs within the fields of philosophy and moral science.
4 Students can use specific reference systems and are independently able to draw up a correct bibliography.
5 Students know the practices and concepts of citing, paraphrasing and referencing and can apply them correctly.
6 Students are skilled in recognizing sound arguments
7 Students know what plagiarism is and experience scientific and intellectual integrity and honesty as extremely important.
8 Students understand and can recognize the structure of a paper and scientific text.
9 The students are willing and able to read and discuss texts together with a group of students.
10 Students know what peer review is and are able to critically discuss a philosophical and scientific text in writing and orally and to provide feedback on it.
11 The students are able to present their own and others' work and communicate about it orally in different formats.
12 The students know what responsible use of generative AI is, based on the faculty guidelines on this matter, within philosophical and moral scientific research and are aware of the advantages and disadvantages of generative AI.

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.
Details about the working methods will be announced in a timely manner during lessons and via Ufora.
Attendance at classes is mandatory. If a student is legitimately absent and misses a test moment, this can be made up later.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Een bundel teksten (elk academiejaar aangepast) wordt beschikbaar gesteld via Ufora
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: Manuals including Zotero
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Guidance and feedback by instructors.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Skills test, Participation, Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment, Written assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Details about the evaluation methods will be announced in a timely manner during lessons and via Ufora.

Calculation of the examination mark

Details regarding the final score calculation will be announced in due time during classes and via Ufora.

Facilities for Working Students

Possibility of partial exemption from attendance with a substitute assignment in consultation with the teacher.
Possibility of feedback by appointment during and after office hours.