GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2024-2025

Human Sciences (F000115)

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

Credits 4.0 **Study time 120 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Science in Business Economics	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Business Engineering	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics	4	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	4	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Argumentation, inference schemes, economics, moral behaviour, moral reasoning, democracy, tolerance, ditributive justice, existence, rationality.
Social structure, culture, institutionalization, social control and deviation, social stratification and social change.

Position of the course

The course is an introduction of philosophy and sociology. The aim is to situate economics as a human science in the field of other (human) sciences.
The course has two distinct parts with the following aims:

1 Insight into what six subdisciplines of philosophy (argumentation theory, philosophy of science, ethics, political philosophy, social philosophy and philosoophical anthropology) contain and how they are relevant for economics as a scientfic discipline..
2 Understanding of sociological approaches and their explanations for behaviour; knowing the main components of human organization; knowing some subdisciplines of sociology; knowing some basic concepts and theories from economic sociology

Contents

The following themes are treated:

1 Logic: correct inference schemes, fallacies en their importance for economists.
2 Philosophy of science: characteristics of scientific research in general, in the social sciences and in economics.
3 Ethics: moral behaviour and moral reasoning in general and in an economical context.
4 Topics in political philosophy (e.g. democracy and tolerance) and their relevance for economics.
5 Topics in social philosophy (e.g. justice and inequality) and their relevance for economics.
6 Topics in philosophical anthropology (e.g. freedom and rationality)
7 General description of sociology.
8 Forms of societal organization; social structure, culture and institutionalization.

9 Social control and deviation, explanation of deviant attitudes.
10 Explanation of social stratification and social mobility.

Initial competences

Normal analytical and synthetical reasoning skills that can be expected from a first year Bachelor student.

Final competences

1 Ability to disitguish correct from incorrecte inference schemes.

2 Knowledge of the most important fallacies and the ability to recognise them.

3 Insight into to fundamental properties of scientific research and into the relation between economics and other disciplines in the social sciences.

4 Insight into the utilistic apporach in moral reasoning and its application in the economical domain.

5 Ability to distinguish various forms of democracy. Insight into the economic and other functions of the state.
6 Insight into the most important theories of distributive justice.

7 Ability to charcterise important concepts in philosophical anthropology (existence, free will, rationalty) and understand their interrelation.
8 To discuss the particular perspective of sociology

9 To define the subject of sociological research
10 To apply and discuss the central elements of societal organization – culture and structure

11 To apply and discuss the central processes of societal organization – culture and structure
12 To see the relationship between socialization and social control and deviant attitudes
13 to give the explanation for deviant behavior
14 To explain the different forms of social stratification
15 To explain the different theories of social stratification
16 To explain social mobility as a dynamic part of social stratification

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

Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Ufora and on appointment

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The exam contains 40 multiple choice questions, 20 about the philosophical part, 20 about the sociological part.
The exam is about reproductive knowledge and insight

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

You can make a special agreement with the professor(s)