

Epistemology: Capita Selecta (A000143)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

group work

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Veldman, Wouter

LW07

staff member

Van Dyck, Maarten

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

crdts

offering

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject Philosophy\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Research Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Foucault, knowledge, power, truth

Position of the course

In this advanced course we investigate how Foucault's strongly historicised thinking about knowledge, freedom and power compares to more traditional epistemological questions.

Contents

We read some key texts from Foucault's oeuvre, discuss its internal evolution, and look at its relation to some of Foucault's direct sources of inspiration (Nietzsche and Canguilhem) and to the broader philosophical tradition.

We mainly discuss epistemological questions raised by his analyses: wat could it mean that there are "discursive formations" that constrain what is speakable and thinkable in determine periods of time? What is the status of a "will to knowledge" or "will to truth"? If power and knowledge cannot be disentangled, what does this imply for the ideal of "free knowledge"?

We possibly also discuss a number of contemporary authors who treat related themes (Latour, Serres, ...)

Initial competences

- Having a basic knowledge of the history of philosophy.
- Being able to read philosophical texts in French.

Final competences

- 1 Having insight in the most important concepts within Foucault's thinking.
- 2 Being able to correctly asses Foucault's relation to philosophical tradition.
- 3 Being able to critically reflect on Foucault's work.
- 4 Being able to use Foucault's ideas in a reflection on contemporary phenomena.
- 5 Being able to develop a philosophical perspective on the relation between knowledge and its (changing) social and political context.

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, Lecture, Peer teaching

Learning materials and price**References****Course content-related study coaching****Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark**Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours

Extra information:

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