

## 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 2024-2025**

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Veldman, Wouter

LW07

staff member

Vanrie, Wim

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

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

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

[Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Research Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Common Sense

History of Philosophy

**Position of the course**

In this advanced course we use the evolution of conceptions of and reflections on 'Common Sense' throughout the history of (mostly Western) philosophy as a stepping stone to reflect on the status and nature of Common Sense within epistemology and philosophy as such.

**Contents**

We will read primary texts by several philosophers, all of which relate to the theme of Common Sense. We will pay attention to the following overarching questions:

- What conceptions of the nature and philosophical status of Common Sense are advanced by these authors?
- What could an adequate conception of Common Sense look like?
- Can the notion of Common Sense play a constructive role in philosophy, or does it constitute an inhibition of philosophical thought?

A list of possible authors (changes are always possible): Nagarjuna, Aristoteles, Sextus Empiricus, Thomas Reid, George Berkeley, G.E. Moore, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Susan Stebbing, Wilfrid Sellars, Isabelle Stengers, Robin Dembroff, Noah Lemos.

**Initial competences**

Having successfully finished the course Epistemology I, or an equivalent.

**Final competences**

- 1 Understanding some important conceptions of Common Sense that have been articulated throughout the history of philosophy.
- 2 Understanding the role played by the notion of Common Sense in broader epistemological debates.
- 3 Being capable of autonomously reading and analyzing philosophical texts involving the theme of Common Sense.
- 4 Being capable of autonomously articulating and supporting one's own views on the nature and philosophical status of Common Sense.

**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

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

The classes constitute a hybrid of lecture and seminar—in discussing the primary texts, active participation of the students is expected (cf. continuous assessment).

### **Study material**

Type: Syllabus

Name: Primary texts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

### **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

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

- Continuous assessment: participation during classes, short presentations on the texts.
- End-of-term: Essay and oral discussion.
- Using any generative AI-system in making the assignments is explicitly forbidden and may lead to a disciplinary procedure.

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

- Continuous: 25%
- End-of-term: 75%

### **Facilities for Working Students**

- An alternative assignment for the continuous assessment is possible. Nevertheless, class attendance is highly recommended.
- 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.

Extra information:

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