

Philosophy of Science I (A000226)

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 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Lefevere, Merel

LW01

staff member

Zahidi, Karim

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Correlation, causal relations, theories, paradigm, pseudoscience, research ethics, philosophy of mathematics.

Position of the course

The first aim of this basic course is to impart to the students the knowledge and skills that are necessary for correctly interpreting and critically evaluating scientific products (journal articles, books). A second aim is to impart some insights with respect to the ethics of science (rules and norms that should guide scientific research). A third aim is to obtain insight into the relation between different scientific disciplines and into similarities between science now and the past.

Contents

Different types of scientific knowledge (diagnosis, historical claims, theories, experimental knowledge, ...) are dealt with, paying attention to the aims specified above (insight in methods, capacities and limitations). Besides this, there are chapters on ethics of sciences and science and society.

Initial competences

Geen specifieke voorkennis vereist

Final competences

- 1 To know the capacities and limitations the most important methods and forms of argumentation in sciences.
- 2 To be able to evaluate scientific products based on the most important methods and.
- 3 To be acquainted with the most important problems and their proposed solution in the domain of ethics of science.
- 4 To insight into the relation between different scientific disciplines and into similarities between science now and the past.

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

In the seminars, the concepts and theories discussed in the lectures are applied. Students analyze short text, image, and sound fragments from newspapers, magazines, and professional journals based on the concepts, theories, and methodologies discussed in the lectures.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Science: what, how and why?

Indicative price: € 37

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Erik Weber, Bert Leuridan, Merel Lefeveré

ISBN : 978-9-04413-912-9

Number of Pages : 363

Oldest Usable Edition : Science: what, how and why?

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Additional information: The older edition of this handbook (with ISBN: 0789044134469) is identical to the edition mentioned above and is therefore perfectly usable.

References

Course content-related study coaching

An assistant is available for individual guidance..

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The non-periodic evaluation pertains to the material covered in Part I of the course. Students are assessed on completing digital learning paths, submitting small assignments, and a final test on this material.

A successful partial score for the non-periodic evaluation is carried over to the second examination period. The student retains the partial score achieved in the first sitting for the non-periodic evaluation. If the student is not successful in the non-periodic evaluation, they must retake the learning path and final test in the second examination period. There is no transfer of grades for the period-bound evaluation.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical evaluation.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. The examination can be rescheduled within the same exam period.

3. An alternative time for feedback is possible

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