

## Moral Science: Practical Issues (A000496)

**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	
			lecture
			seminar
			peer teaching

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

D'ooghe, Marthe			staff member
Verghote, Kato		LW01	staff member
Provoost, Veerle		LW01	lecturer-in-charge
Bosteels, Sigrid			co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences</a>	5	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Moral research, moral experience, moral judgement, moral attitudes, discourse analysis, systematic review, research proposal, interview guide construction, qualitative research, focus groups, interviews, narrative analysis, grounded theory, interpretative phenomenological analysis, data-analysis, thematic analysis, NVivo, interview training

**Position of the course**

This advanced course teaches students how to select and use research methods of moral science.

**Contents**

The content and lessons consist of two assignments:

- 1 A research proposal for an empirical study on a topic related to moral sciences, starting from a research question formulated by the student.
- 2 A qualitative study or an experiment (group work): formulate a research question, prepare the forms for the ethics committee, conduct interviews, transcribe the interviews, analyse the data using NVivo, synthesize and present the results.

Assignment 1 and 2 are preceded by advanced research seminars where the steps to be taken are explained in detail. In the following lessons, practical tips for using specific software will be given. During three lessons of presentations, students will take turns in providing relevant feedback based on the presentations of their peers.

Students are guided through all steps of working on these assignments either individually or in small groups. This may be during online sessions. Results of these assignments will be presented (online) to peers. During and after these presentations students will be asked to participate in the discussion and give feedback to their peers.

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, most of the above can also be offered in online format. There will be ample opportunity for (online) guidance and support, both individual as well as in small groups.

**Initial competences**

- To have successfully completed the course 'Statistics' or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.
- To have successfully completed 'Methods and techniques of research in Moral Science:

introduction' or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

- To have successfully completed the course 'qualitative methods' or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

### **Final competences**

- 1 Assess the importance and the usefulness of empirical research results for ethical-theoretical research
- 2 To be able to read critically and interpret published research papers about both quantitative and qualitative empirical research
- 3 To be able to construct research questions, explain their relevance and situate the research question within the current empirical science.
- 4 To understand different qualitative research methods, to be able to apply these methods
- 5 To be able to choose the best fitted empirical research method for a given research question.
- 6 To be able to practically design a study according to a particular research method (recruitment, selection, informing participants, etc.)
- 7 To be able to prepare a file for the Ethics Committee
- 8 To be able to design a clear and correct interview guide to address a particular research question and participant profile.
- 9 To be able to construct and use elicitation techniques for eliciting abstract moral reasoning in both professionals and lay people.
- 10 To analyse gathered qualitative data in a scientifically correct and comprehensive way, using specific software (NVivo).
- 11 To be able to present empirical research results in a clear way, making a good distinction between main and side issues. To be able to correctly answer questions about the conducted research.
- 12 To be familiar with (the structure of) reports of empirical studies, published in peer-reviewed journals.
- 13 To be able to formulate a research proposal for an empirical moral study
- 14 Create own digital versions of analogue or digital research objects, using (audio)visual or audio-recording and transcription.
- 15 To know strategies to store and manage data in a correct and responsible way.
- 16 To be able to use digital methods to collaborate on a project during several phases of a research process.
- 17 To be aware of the societal impact, needs and the ethical dimensions of the digital turn and the position of the humanities therein.

### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

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

Seminar (8h): introduction to language (writing) support, instructions and practical directions, theoretical deepening about quantitative and qualitative research, guest lecturer who presents his/her (moral) research project.

Seminar/demonstration (6h): interview techniques and approaches for qualitative data analysis  
Exercises (6h): construction of interview guides, analyse (own) data, reflecting on analysis approaches.

Microteaching (14h): presentation of assignments, peer feedback, training of interview techniques, peer feedback

Online discussion groups: peer feedback about research questions, interview guides and analysis.

Field work: gather, transcribe and analyse qualitative data (in-dept semi-structured interviews).

Research project: prepare research question, research method, file for the Ethics Committee, data-analysis, prepare presentations.

Group work/project (11h): consultation class: possibility to work on group assignments, teachers provide help and feedback.

### **Learning materials and price**

(Electronic) syllabus, articles, available on electronic learning platform. Cost: 10.00 €

## References

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### Course content-related study coaching

Personal guidance by professor or assistant. Moments of individual consultation and follow-up of assignments.

### 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

Participation, Peer and/or self 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

- Peer evaluation: evaluate the assignments of peers
- Working papers: evaluation based on periodical and final documents such as questionnaire, research question, form for the ethics committee, databases, presentations
- Report: evaluation based on oral presentation and results of the empirical studies
- Participation: evaluation on the basis of the student's critical reflection and participation in the discussions in the classes, on online discussion forums and related to the presentations of other students

### Calculation of the examination mark

Non-periodical: continuous assessment (100%)

- Assignment 1 (research proposal) – 45% of total score
- Assignment 2 (qualitative interview study) – 45% of total score
- Participation - 10%

Students need to obtain a minimum of 50% for each of the first two parts to succeed.

### Facilities for Working Students

Students should contact the professor or assistant to ask for the possibilities. Attendance during most lessons is required but alternative assignments and/or electronic learning can be used instead.

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