

Epistemology I (A001181)

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

0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Lefevere, Merel

LW01

staff member

Taelman, Silke

LW01

staff member

Wallaert, Sigrid

LW01

staff member

Vanrie, Wim

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

[Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

- Analytical epistemology
- Feminist epistemology
- Knowledge first epistemology
- David Hume
- Knowledge
- Epistemic justification
- Epistemic rationality
- Epistemic internalism and externalism
- Epistemic scepticism

Position of the course

This course is an introductory course with the aim of familiarizing students with a selection of fundamental concepts and positions from the field of analytical epistemology

Contents

This course presents an overview of some of the main approaches to knowledge and other central epistemological concepts in analytical epistemology.

We start with classical analytical epistemology as it arose in the wake of the paper 'Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?' (1963) by Edmund Gettier. The handbook 'Epistemology' (2003) by Richard Feldman is an excellent exposition and exemplification of the classical approach. Next, we look at two important more recent developments in analytical epistemology: knowledge first epistemology, and feminist epistemology. Each in their own way, they pose critical questions about the classical approach, and try to steer epistemology into a new direction.

For the seminars, students have to read the book 'An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding' (1748) by David Hume. Students will have to make assignments about the epistemological issues that Hume discusses in the book.

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 Properly employing concepts from analytical epistemology
- 2 Grasping different positions in analytical epistemology
- 3 Correctly and autonomously evaluating and reconstructing arguments from analytical epistemology
- 4 Reflecting and reporting about epistemological issues in an autonomous and fruitful way
- 5 Autonomous development of insightful analyses of the treatment of epistemological issues in both historical and contemporary philosophical texts
- 6 Grasping the epistemological aspects of certain societal issues

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, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

- The handbook and further course materials are explained and discussed during the lectures
- The seminars will provide guidance for the assignments

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: The Enquiry concerning Human Understanding

Indicative price: € 30

Optional: no

Author : David Hume

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Type: Handbook

Name: Epistemology

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Richard Feldman

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Type: Syllabus

Name: Additional course material

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Slides from the lectures

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: yes

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

For the papers, the students will receive feedback and group tutorials.

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

Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Written assessment open-book, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- Continuous assessment: Several assignments must be made about Hume's book. Using any generative AI-system in making the assignments is explicitly forbidden and may lead to a disciplinary procedure
- End-of-term assessment: Closed book exam with open questions. The exam will test both the capacity to reproduce the course material, as well as the capacity to think independently about epistemological issues on the basis of the course material

Calculation of the examination mark

- End-of-term: written exam (75%)
- Continuous assessment: assignments (25%)
 - Examination during the second examination period is possible. For the second examination, students may choose to preserve their marks for the papers from the first examination period.
- To pass the course, it is sufficient to have a total passing grade.

Facilities for Working Students

- Absence is allowed. Supporting teaching material is provided (slides)
- 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
- It is possible to consult with the teachers to change the deadlines of assignments
- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment

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