

## Metaphysics (A001227)

**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

lecture

independent work

seminar

### Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Weber, Erik

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Pawlowski, Pawel

LW01

co-lecturer

### Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Philosophy)

crdts

offering

5

A

Master of Arts in Philosophy

5

A

Research Master of Arts in Philosophy

5

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

metaphysics of science, scientific realism, natural kinds, essentialism, conventionalism.

### Position of the course

In this specialised course the students get insight into (i) topics and methods of contemporary metaphysics of science and (ii) topics and methods of analytic metaphysics.

### Contents

(1) study of theories and debates on the topic of 'Pragmatism, Perspectivism & Pluralism'. This is connected to the relation between scientific theories & models on the one hand and the world they describe (or do not try to describe?) on the other hand.

(2) Study of one or more metaphysical paradoxes, e.g. about time or (personal) identity.

(3) Study of Quine's idea of 'ontological commitment'.

### Initial competences

Basic knowledge of philosophy of science.

### Final competences

1 Understanding complex debates in the metaphysics of science (their aims and methods, the positions taken).

2 Defending your own position regarding the philosophical debates discussed during this course.

### 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, Independent work

### **Study material**

Type: Reader

Name: Natural Kinds

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

### **References**

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Individual help is offered by the lecturers.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation

#### **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**

See below.

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

70% periodic evaluation (oral exam).

30% non-periodic evaluation (participation).

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

None.