

Research in Moral Science: Introduction (A001468)

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 2)

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research in moral science, moral experience, moral judgements, moral attitudes, discourse analysis, Theory of Planned Behaviour, systematic review, experiment, attitude scales, survey, questionnaire construction, quantitative research, experiment, SPSS, statistics, data-analysis, Limesurvey, tables and graphs

Position of the course

This course introduces students to methods of scientific research in the domain of moral sciences. It also gives them an introduction to the use of the quantitative data-analysis software programs (SPSS).

Contents

Methodology section (7 lessons) :

- Methods for moral judgment research (descriptive quantitative research and experiments)
- Methods for constructing moral judgment tests, in particular methods for designing attitude scales

SPSS (5 lessons):

- exercises at using SPSS (in computer class) : univariate and bivariate descriptive statistics (crosstabs, correlation tabs), linear regression analysis, ANOVA.

Initial competences

- The methodology part builds on the course 'Filosofische vaardigheden en methodiek I (Philosophical skills and methodology I)'. The students are supposed to have acquired the final objectives of this course.
- The SPSS exercises are based on the final objectives of 'Statistics' (first year course). The students are required to have succeeded for the exam of this course or to have acquired the final objectives in an alternative way.

Final competences

- 1 To be familiar with research methods in the field of moral science.
- 2 To have insight into, and be able to judge moral judgement tests.
- 3 To be able to choose the right technique to analyse data in SPSS and to interpret the results in a correct and complete way.
- 4 To be able to choose a suitable research method for a research question in moral science.

- 5 To be able to set up and conduct a descriptive, quantitative study and report the results of the study for peers
- 6 To be able to use digital methods to collect and manage research objects in a structured way
- 7 To be able to design a data model that structures relations between characteristics of research objects and operationalise this model in the form of a database.
- 8 To have insight in the principles of digital methods of data analysis and to be able to use them to conduct analyses.
- 9 To have insight in the principles of digital methods for visualisation and to be able to use them to conduct analyses and/or present research results.

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

- Lectures (10h)
 - Lectures : plenary exercises (4h)
 - Research Project (3h)
 - Independent work (at home): make a research proposal, making assignments (alone or in group)
 - Microteaching (4h): students propose their proposals for the construction of their questionnaires to each other, students and teachers give feedback
 - Lectures/demonstrations (10h): instructions in using SPSS and guest lecture where a researcher illustrates his/her research experiences
 - Seminar computer class (12h) combined with independent work: exercises SPSS
- In light of the COVID-19 crisis, most of the above can be offered in online format. There will be ample opportunity for (online) guidance and support, both individual as well as in small groups.

Learning materials and price

Electronic syllabus methodology: slides and English papers on methodological subjects or on research as an example of methods and techniques studied in class. (Electronic) syllabus with instructions and exercises for using SPSS.

Total estimated cost: 15 euro

References

Course content-related study coaching

Group feedback, Individual feedback for exercises, personal contact is possible after making an appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Participation, 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

Written examination and skills test SPSS in the computer class and exercises during the semester.

Written examination Methodology

Project Survey (process and interim reports as well as end result)

A minimum of 50% for each of these parts is necessary to pass. Apart from that, participation is also taken into account.

Calculation of the examination mark

Combination of periodical and non-periodical examination

Non-periodical:

- Preparations and exercises SPSS (20% of total score)
- Research project: Survey (30% of total score)
- Participation (10% of total score)

Periodical:

- PC-test (20% of total score)
- Written examination methodology (20% of total score)

Important: in order to pass, a minimum of 50% on three parts is needed : the combination of the SPSS PC-test and the SPSS exercises, the written exam methodology, and the research project.

Facilities for Working Students

Students are advised to contact the teachers for information about the possibilities. Attendance is required for most classes but in specific cases alternatives can be negotiated.

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance, a task is imposed in substitution; the student will receive obligatory course literature and SPSS exercises.

2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during or after office hours

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