GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2024-2025

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 2024-2025

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	seminar
			lecture
			peer teaching

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	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, Qualtrics, tables and graphs

Position of the course

This course deepens students' knowledge and skills related to the use of research methods used in the social sciences and how these methods can be used in the domain of moral sciences. The course deals mainly with quantitative research methods and gives an introduction to questionnaire construction for survey research (in particular for research relating to moral attitudes) and methods for data analysis (in particular relating to the use of the quantitative data-analysis software program 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
- Systematic reviews: method and added value
- Ethics of research involving participants

SPSS (5 lessons):
- exercises at using SPSS: 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 The student is familiar with research methods in the field of moral science.
2 The student has insight in, and is able to work with research ethics rules relating to research with participants.
3 The student is able to choose the right techique to analyse data in SPSS and to formulate and interprete the results in a correct and complete way.
4 The student is able to choose a suitable research method for a research question in moral science.
5 The student is able to set up and conduct a descriptive, quantitative study (including the construction of a questionnaire) and to report the results of the study for peers.
6 The student is able to use digital methods to collect and manage research objects in a structured way.
7 The student is able to design a data model that structures relations between characteristics of research objects and operationalise this modal in the form of a database.
8 The student has insight in the principles of digital methods of data analysis and is able to apply them for data analyses.
9 The student has insight in the principles of digital methods for visualisation and is able to use them to conduct analyses and/or present research results.
10 The student has insight in and is able to explain the value of systematic reviews.

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 (8h)
- Lectures : plenary exercises (4h)
- Research Project (5h)
- Independent work (at home): make a research proposal, making assignments (alone or in group)
- Microteaching (4h): students propose their proposals for research questiosn and 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 work (bring your own device) (12h) combined with independent work: exercises SPSS

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, if needed, 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.

Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Collection of methodological papers, examples of studies, slides, online resources, exercises and instructions.
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

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 writen 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 speciific 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 exercices.
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