

Metaphysics and Natural Philosophy (A001513)

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 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture
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Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Truwant, Simon	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A
Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Metaphysics, Kant, Cassirer, Heidegger

Position of the course

This introductory course offers a thorough introduction in the views of a number of influential metaphysical authors.

Contents

In 1929, two leading figures of early twentieth century philosophy, Ernst Cassirer and Martin Heidegger, met each other in Davos for an animated debate about the persisting relevance of Kant's philosophy, the human condition, and the task of philosophy. In this course, we will examine how Kant's reflections about the fate of metaphysics inspired both thinkers while yet steering it in two very different directions, namely a transcendental philosophy of culture and an existential phenomenology. We analyze how their demarcations of the task of philosophy forms a motivating thread throughout Cassirer and Heidegger's respective thinking and mutual disagreements about multiple matters. We also reflect about the limits of their own philosophical projects, which are put into question by unwanted metaphysical questions that arise after all. In this way, the course thematizes the meaning, possibilities, and limitations of metaphysical thinking.

Initial competences

Sufficient knowledge of the history of philosophy to place the authors discussed.

Final competences

- 1 Being able to comment the primary texts read from the history of metaphysics.
- 2 Having knowledge of a number of crucial basic concepts and arguments from metaphysics.
- 3 Having thorough and broad knowledge of the task and limits of metaphysics according to Kant, Cassirer, and Heidegger.
- 4 Understanding the points of (dis)agreement between the views of these thinkers and what is at stake therein for the fate of metaphysics.
- 5 Being able to take a critical stance with regard to these views.

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

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

In preparation for the lectures the students read assigned passages from the primary literature.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Course texts and compulsory literature

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

By appointment with the lecturer.

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The examination tests for:

- knowledge of some key concepts and arguments;
- insight in the main themes being treated;
- Students will have to answer three questions. The first two are classical exam questions which they receive during the exam, prepare in writing, and answer orally. The third question is chosen and prepared in advance by the student themselves (but they cannot bring a written preparation to the exam). The teacher will initiate a short philosophical conversation about each exam question. Regarding the third question the originality and difficulty of the question is also taken into account for the evaluation.

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance

2 Possibility of examination facilities during regular examination periods

3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during and after office hours

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