

## 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

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Truwant, Simon

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

[Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences](#)

**crdts**

**offering**

5

A

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.