

## Philosophical Ethics: Methodology (A001739)

**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 2026-2027**

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	seminar
			independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Bleys, Kjell	LW01	staff member
Sterckx, Sigrid	LW01	lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A
Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences	5	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Normative ethics, metaethics, applied ethics, text analysis, ethical reasoning, argumentation, contemporary ethical problems, normative ethics.

**Position of the course**

In this course, the students learn to develop moral philosophical skills allowing them to read ethics related texts independently and critically, and to recognise, formalise and analyse normative ethical arguments. These skills form the basis for other courses where these skills will be explored further. Attention is also devoted to specific research skills like learning to accurately formulate discussion and research questions, with a view to writing term papers later on in the curriculum.

**Contents**

Introduction to moral philosophical methods.  
Close reading and analysis of texts, text fragments and cases. These can vary each year.

**Initial competences**

Having taken the course *Philosophical Ethics: Systematics* or having mastered the contents of this course and the accompanying textbook in another way.  
Active knowledge of Dutch, English and French.

**Final competences**

- 1 Ability to read an ethics related text in a critical-analytical manner.
- 2 Ability to paraphrase and analyse ethical arguments.
- 3 Being able to clearly explain relevant ethical concepts.
- 4 Ability to reflect insightfully about present-day ethical issues
- 5 Ability to apply theories in normative ethics.
- 6 The capacity to listen to other participants in the group exercises.
- 7 Being able to orally formulate thoughts in a clear and structured manner.

**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**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

**Teaching methods**

Seminar, Independent work

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

Compulsory attendance of the first lecture and the group tutorials (permanent evaluation).

**Study material**

None

**References****Course content-related study coaching**

Via the e-learning platform or by 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

**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**

The students are evaluated on two components:

- Group tutorials (oral and writing)

After each oral group tutorial, the student receives a mark based on extent of participation, demonstrated understanding of the texts and quality of argumentation. The evaluation of the writing tutorials depends on the type of the given exercise.

The assessment during the resit examination period consists of an oral test of the required skills based on all the materials covered in the seminars.

- Exam

Written open book exam (indepth analysis of an unseen text)

**Calculation of the examination mark**

- Permanent evaluation (group tutorials): 60% (12/20)
- Periodic evaluation (written exam): 40% (8/20)

To obtain a credit for this course, it is required to participate in all components of the evaluation. In order to pass the course, the student must obtain at least half of the max. mark for each of the two components. If the total score would nevertheless be a mark of ten or more out of twenty, this will be reduced to 7/20.

Students who are absent for the group tutorials more than twice will be considered not to have participated for the evaluation for this part and can therefore no longer pass.

Students who have not passed and want to try to obtain a credit for this course in a following academic year, have to participate in the evaluation of all the components.

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Student attendance during educational activities is required
2. Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours

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

