

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 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Bleys, Kjell

LW01

staff member

Sterckx, Sigrid

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

crdts

5

offering

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 not possible

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.

- 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

