

## Philosophy of Science: Capita Selecta (A001844)

**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 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

independent work

lecture

### Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Weber, Erik

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Gonzalez Barman, Kristian

LW01

co-lecturer

### Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject Philosophy\)](#)

**crdts**

**offering**

5

A

[Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Biological functions, technical functions (functions of artefacts), function concept in the social sciences

### Position of the course

This advanced course deepens the insight of students into the philosophy of science literature on the concept of function. It stimulates independent reflection on how the concept of function is used in various scientific disciplines.

### Contents

1. Introduction & overview.
2. Discussion of philosophical texts (read in advance by the students) on functions in the three domains (biology, engineering & design, social sciences).
3. Independent study of a subtopic (chosen together with the teachers).
4. Oral presentation on the results of 3.

### Initial competences

Credit for Philosophy of Science I and II, or equivalent.

### Final competences

- 1 Understand complex debates in analytic philosophy of science (their aims and methods, the positions taken) and defend your own position.
- 2 Grasp the positions in the philosophical literature on function ascriptions and functional explanations, and be able to apply them to specific cases.

### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

### Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

### Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

Week 1: introduction (lecture).

Week 2-6: study of texts (seminar).

Week 7-10: develop personal views (guided self-study).

Week 11-12: presentation and discussion (seminar).

**Study material**

Type: Reader

Name: Function concepts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

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

Persoonlijk: op elektronische afspraak.

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous 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**

Skills test, Participation

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

See below.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

70% periodical evaluation (oral exam).

30% presentation + participation.

**Facilities for Working Students**

Te bespreken met de lesgevers.