

## Contemporary Ethics: Continental Tradition (A001867)

**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

independent work

lecture

seminar

**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**

**offering**

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Continental philosophy, ethics

**Position of the course**

The course provides an in-depth overview of the continental (moral) philosophical tradition and introduces some prominent thinkers from this tradition by means of close reading of key texts.

**Contents**

- 1) The classes start with a brief overview of continental philosophy since 1750.
- 2) The content of the group tutorials may differ each year. Texts of important continental thinkers (e.g. Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, De Beauvoir, Marcuse, Habermas, Fanon, Ahmed etc.) will be subjected to indepth analysis.

**Initial competences**

Having taken the courses 'Historisch overzicht van de wijsbegeerte', 'Wijsgerige ethiek: Systematiek', 'Geschiedenis van de hedendaagse wijsbegeerte' and 'Filosofische vaardigheden en methodiek' or possessing equivalent competences. Active knowledge of Dutch, English and French is required.

**Final competences**

- 1 Being able to read, analyze, paraphrase and assess influential primary continental philosophical texts in a critical and independent manner.
- 2 Being able to recognize, explain, compare and evaluate critically the moral philosophical ideas of influential continental thinkers.
- 3 Being able to recognize and name the social, cultural and political historical, and the general philosophical determinants for the development of the continental ethical tradition.
- 4 Being able to evaluate the relevance of continental ethical problems and solution methods for contemporary ethical debates.
- 5 Being able to formulate and ground a substantiated point of view, both written and orally, in an informed and clear 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, Lecture, Independent work

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Introductory plenary class.

Ca. 10 group tutorials focusing on the guided discussion of primary texts; for each group tutorial, specific reading assignments are given and every week a written assignment needs to be submitted by each student beforehand.

### **Study material**

None

### **References**

Every group tutorial a list with relevant references will be given.

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Via the digital learning environment (Ufora).

### **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, Assignment

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

examination during the second examination period is not possible

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Three parts are evaluated: 1) the written assignments, 2) the group tutorials, 3) oral exam.

The criteria will be explained in detail during the introductory plenary class.

The deadlines for submitting the preparatory reading assignments need to be respected strictly.

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

1) Calculation: Preparatory assignments: 4 points out of 20; Group tutorials: 9 points; Oral exam: 7 points.

2) If one does not participate in the evaluation of one or more of the three parts or if one does not obtain at least half of the max. mark for each of the three components, one cannot pass this course. If the total endscore would be a mark of ten or more on 20, this will be reduced to 7/20.

3) Anybody who is absent more than twice without a justified ground in the group tutorials, will be considered to not have participated in this part of the course, and consequently will not be able to pass the course.

4) Anybody who has not passed and wishes to obtain a credit for this course the following year, must resit all the parts of the exam (preparatory assignments, group tutorials, oral exam).

### **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