

## Capita Selecta in Modern and Contemporary Philosophy: Analysis of Texts (A001994)

**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)

English

Gent

seminar

lecture

### Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Cambi, Alice

LW01

staff member

Liu, Xuansong

LW01

staff member

Haeck Gormez, Levi

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

### 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

[Research Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Philosophy and Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

### Teaching languages

English

### Keywords

Text study, modern philosophy, contemporary philosophy, Kant, transcendental philosophy, epistemology

### Position of the course

This advanced course assists the students in interpreting one of the fundamental philosophical texts from transcendental philosophy, namely Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Furthermore, the course attempts at situating this work in its context and to bring it in discussion with contemporary interpretations. In addition, this course fosters communication, research and writing skills by means of interactive discussion, group defense of one of the theses or antitheses during the participation in the [Oxford Style Debate](#), and through a written assignment in preparation thereof.

The final score consists of participation during the course, the written assignment and the participation in the debate.

The students are provided with a list of scientific literature. In their written assignment and participation in the debate, they must show the capacity of critically dealing with secondary literature.

### Contents

One fundamental text from the modern philosophical tradition is read and discussed, namely Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. The content of this course can be amended with other primary texts.

### Initial competences

Knowledge of English is required, knowledge of German and French is advised. General philosophical knowledge and skills is required, as offered in "Philosophical Methodology I", "History of Modern Philosophy" and "History of Contemporary Philosophy", "Texts Modern and Contemporary Philosophy: continental tradition" and "Text Modern and Contemporary Philosophy: Anglo-American Tradition".

### Final competences

- 1 To have advanced an up to date knowledge about Kant's transcendental philosophy and to creatively apply this knowledge in the treatment of philosophical issues.
- 2 To understand and appropriately use specialized philosophical terminology.
- 3 To understand the relationship between specific issues within Kant's transcendental philosophy and the modern dogmatic idealism and modern empiricism, and to be able to place this in historical perspective.
- 4 To understand the strengths and weaknesses of Kant's transcendental philosophy, modern dogmatic idealism and modern empiricism.
- 5 To analyse philosophical arguments and to expose conceptual lacks. To construct convincing arguments for or against the philosophical schools mentioned above.
- 6 To analyse, synthetically summarise and interpret philosophical texts in Dutch, French and English.
- 7 To be familiar with key international literature on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, to actively follow the latest developments in contemporary (idealist / materialist) transcendental philosophy and to integrate them into the own reflection and research.
- 8 To draft a research strategy by both detecting complex problems on the basis of theoretical models and accurately formulating them.
- 9 To interpret and report the results of existing and tentative own research.
- 10 To integrate in the own analysis of Kant's transcendental philosophy opposite opinions regarding Kant's theories and problems.
- 11 To consciously and thoughtfully judge about complex problems on the basis of philosophical insights and scientific knowledge.
- 12 To independently, systematically and critically reflect on thinking, learning, decision making and acting by oneself and by others.
- 13 To orally and in writing communicate the results of philosophical inquiry with experts and laymen.
- 14 To constructively debate about philosophical and social problems about which the correct problem formulation is still not clearly defined.
- 15 To understand the possibilities and limitations for philosophy to take a position in contemporary social contexts.
- 16 To independently conduct philosophical research and to fit in the dynamic of a philosophical research group.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

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

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture

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

The instructors explain and discuss in a number of introductory lectures the central points of Kant's philosophy. In the seminars, students engage with the text and present their reflections during Octavian discussions, preceded each time by a short presentation of the content. The aim of this is to prepare their intervention in the Oxford Style Debate.

This course assumes the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI), taking into consideration ecological arguments as well. During the lessons, what this means will be explained.

#### **Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: Critique of Pure Reason

Indicative price: € 45

Optional: yes

Language : Dutch

Author : Immanuel Kant

ISBN : 978-9-08506-017-8

Number of Pages : 650

Alternative : The students will find the relevant passages in English and German through Ufora.  
Oldest Usable Edition : /  
Online Available : Yes  
Available in the Library : Yes  
Available through Student Association : Yes  
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive  
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive  
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : intensive  
Additional information: Kant's oeuvre is available online in German through the Akademie Ausgabe

## **References**

An extensive list of secondary literature is to be found on Ufora.

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

Intensive supervision by lecturer and PhD students.

## **Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

## **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

## **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

## **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

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

not applicable

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

Participation

- In the Oxford Style Debate.
- Participation in the discussion in the seminars.

Individual written assignment

- Preparation, per student, of a written structure of the arguments in function of the Oxford Style Debate handed over to the lecturers, and discussed with them orally: max. 1500 words not including citations. AI can be used, but has to be made explicit by the student.

## **Calculation of the examination mark**

100% non-periodical, with the following specification:

- Participation in the discussions during the course: 40%
- Participation in the debate: 40%
- Written assignment: 20%

If one does not participate in the evaluation of one or more of the subparts of the course, one can no longer pass the course as a whole. If in this case the final grade is higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-deliberable grade.

## **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

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