

Capita Selecta in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy: Analysis of Text (A002019)

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 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

seminar

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Praet, Danny

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

De Vos, Benjamin

LW01

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Philosophy)

5

A

Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature

5

A

Master of Arts in Philosophy

5

A

Research Master of Arts in Philosophy

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Philosophical primary sources from Antiquity, Middle Ages and Renaissance, textual analysis, interpretation

Position of the course

Students will become acquainted with the problems of interpreting philosophical texts from Antiquity, the Middle Ages and (casu quo) the Renaissance, (read in translation); students will be confronted with a number of different modern interpretations of ancient, medieval and renaissance texts.

Contents

To read and comment a number of thematically linked philosophical texts (in translation) from ancient, medieval and renaissance philosophers, together with a number of modern interpretations.

Initial competences

Acquaintance with the history of ancient and medieval philosophy; knowledge of either Greek, Latin or Arabic is not required.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to discuss the historical and social context of philosophical texts from Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance period
- 2 To be able to interpret, analyse and offer a synthesis of the philosophical argumentation in these texts
- 3 To be able to reconstruct the diachronical evolution of the philosophical theme of the anthology
- 4 To be able to formulate individual critical reflections on the philosophical problems in these texts
- 5 To be able to discuss modern interpretations of ancient, medieval and Renaissance philosophical texts in a critical manner
- 6 To learn to read ancient philosophical texts and secondary literature independently, to learn to write a paper about this type of texts and to give an oral presentation.

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

The students have prepared the texts, part of the course is introduction and commentary by the teacher, but the focus is on discussion, the student express their own interpretations and have group discussions.

The students prepare a research paper and present their findings followed by a discussion by their peers and the teacher.

Learning materials and price

Scans of primary sources in translation and a number of secondary sources are made available on Ufora. The students need to chose other recent publications for their research paper and presentation.

References and broader philosophical context in the reader.

The theme this year will be Heraclitus through the ages. We will read the fragments of Heraclitus and study the way later philosophers as Plato and Aristotle, the Stoics e.a. dealt with the philosophy of Heraclitus in their own work. We will also read modern philosophers who were very influential for the modern historiography of ancient philosophy such as Hegel and Nietzsche who interpreted Heraclitus in different ways from the point of view of their own philosophy. These texts will be made available on Ufora in pdf, so free of charge.

References

Selective bibliography in anthology on Ufora

Course content-related study coaching

By the lecturer before and after each lecture, during weekly contact hours (Thursday 14-16 h); assistant on appointment.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodical 60 % Standard written exam, oral exam possible for Minor-students or as individual choice course.

non-periodical: research essay, presentation 40 %

Calculation of the examination mark

60 % periodical, 40 % non-periodical

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. Alternative time for feedback
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy