

Advanced Study of Issues in Social and Political Philosophy (A003402)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Sterckx, Sigrid LW01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Moral Sciences)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Philosophy)	5	A
Master of Arts in Moral Sciences	5	A
Master of Arts in Philosophy	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

global justice, cosmopolitanism, feminism, civil rights, discrimination, racism, democracy, regulation, capitalism,

Position of the course

Providing insight into the (cultural) historic sources of contemporary social and political philosophy to enable an inquiry into current social and political-philosophical theories and disputes. Knowledge about (the evolution of) philosophical theories regarding politics and society is required to understand the prevailing social and political systems, and to determine one's own position in this field.

Contents

A thorough discussion of some representative contemporary controversies, on the basis of text analysis. Examples of topics:

- the debate on (variants of) cosmopolitanism versus nationalism, within the broader context of theories on global justice
- civil rights, egalitarianism, discrimination, and civil disobedience
- digitalisation, robotisation, information capitalism, surveillance capitalism

Initial competences

- Prior knowledge of the main political-philosophical doctrines and their historical development. This course builds on some of the final competencies of the course 'Political Philosophy' (A003401). However, having taken this course is not a prerequisite.
- Thorough knowledge of Dutch and English.

Final competences

- 1 Possessing knowledge of and insight into the major social and political-philosophical doctrines.
- 2 Understanding and being capable of critically discussing important social and political-philosophical controversies and disputes (past and present).
- 3 Being able to develop and argue for one's own viewpoint on relevant issues.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

one introductory lecture; after that only group tutorials

No recordings of lectures.

The use of generative AI systems is forbidden.

Study material

None

References

Read with primary texts which are made available throughout the semester.

Course content-related study coaching

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, Oral assessment open-book

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

After each group tutorial, the student receives a mark based on extent of participation, demonstrated understanding of the texts and quality of argumentation.

- Exam

Written open book exam

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 and to score at least 50% for each component. If the average final score would nevertheless be a mark of ten or more out of twenty, this will be reduced to the highest unsuccessful mark (= 9).

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 both components (group tutorials, exam).

Facilities for Working Students

No facilities for working students.