

Sexual and Relational Ethics (A003403)

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)

English

Gent

seminar

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Claes, Tom

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

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

crdts

offering

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

Research Master of Arts in Philosophy

5

A

Exchange Programme Philosophy and Moral Sciences

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Ethics, Sexuality

Position of the course

This specialized course aims (in accordance with the focus of the master courses) to familiarize students with the most important and most influential tendencies within a domain of practical ethics, more specifically sexual and relationship ethics. The students are familiarized with the main points of discussion, theories and theorists.

Contents

The course includes, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- Conceptual analysis : In this introductory module we address the question: "what is (meant with) sex?" Overview of problems involved and some main option for filling out the content of primary and secondary sexual concepts.
- Factual/Historical issues concerning sexuality: an review of the main shifts concerning the regulation and experience of the sexual domain.
- The relevance of the scientific study of sexuality for a sexual ethics.
- Ethics: a review of the main players in the field of sexual ethics.
- Possible case studies: masturbation, pornography, feminism and sexuality, gender en performance, sexual harrasment, 'perversions,' the role of consent, sexuality and power, cybersex, BDSM ...

Initial competences

Understanding the basic concepts, central approaches, theoretical frameworks and important developments in ethics.

Final competences

- 1 Having a good grip of the intricacies of the debates surrounding sexual ethics, and the cultural history of sexuality.
- 2 Knowing and understanding the basic concepts particular to the analysis of sexuality.

- 3 Critically reflecting on and evaluating diverse perspectives on human sexuality.
- 4 Having knowledge of some of the most important theories and theorists of sexuality.
- 5 To be able to critically reflect on and evaluate diverse case studies like, e.g., masturbation, pornography, feminism and sexuality, gender, sexual harassment, 'perversions', 'consent', sexuality and power, cybersex, sex and technology (the selected case studies may differ from year to year)

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures and discussion

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Sexual and Relationship Ethics

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

See Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

Discussion during lectures, appointment with lecturer.

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with 4 to 5 open questions

Calculation of the examination mark

The written exam counts for 100% of the final score.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 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 during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:

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

