

History of Ancient Philosophy (A003406)

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)

Dutch

Gent

independent work

seminar

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

De Vos, Benjamin

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

crdts

offering

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)

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A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - German)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Greek)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Latin)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Swedish)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Greek)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Swedish)

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Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Greek)

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A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Swedish)

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in History

5

A

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

5

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)

5

A

Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Greek)

5

A

Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences

5

A

Elective Set The Classical Tradition

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Ancient philosophy, history, Presocratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Hellenism, Early Christian Philosophy, Late Antiquity

Position of the course

This basic course helps students acquire a profound knowledge of the history of ancient philosophy. The course familiarises students with the problem of the sources and with the most important methodologies.

Contents

Chronological presentation of the most important periods, currents and philosophers, starting with the Archaic Period and ending with Late Antiquity.

Initial competences

To have elementary knowledge of the history of Greece and Rome.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to recognize and situate the most important philosophical authors.
- 2 To be able to recognize and situate the most important philosophical schools.
- 3 To be able to reproduce the most important tenets of the ancient philosophical schools.
- 4 To have insight into the internal development of ancient philosophy and into the interaction with the general social and historical developments.
- 5 To have insight into the development of ancient philosophy and its interaction with the general social and historical developments.
- 6 To learn using the most important heuristic, bibliographical tools for the study of the history of ancient philosophy.
- 7 To learn to read ancient philosophical texts independently and to learn to write a paper about this type of texts.

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- (On campus) Lectures
- (Online) Assignments
- Independent work: reading assignment (in the form of a reader made available via Ufora), bibliographical task

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Ancient Philosophy

Indicative price: € 11

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Anthony Kenny

Oldest Usable Edition : Oxford: Clarendon press, 2004.

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Slides Course Ancient Philosophy

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with selected texts/passages from ancient philosophers

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

References

The slides contain substantial bibliographical references and the course also offers bibliographical exercises.

Recommended further reading:

Introductory: Julia Annas, *Ancient Philosophy. A very short introduction*. Oxford UP, 2000.

Course content-related study coaching

Concerning content of course:

Before or after each course

During the weekly contact hours (Tuesday 14h-16h) or via MsTeams (appointment)

There is some time to ask some urgent questions right after each course

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

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment form

Written with open questions (97,5%): both on knowledge and insight; comparisons. Part of the periodic evaluation will assess the own, critical lecture of the syllabus of primary texts (by means of essay questions). During the course, these texts will be discussed and there will also be room for questions/feedback about this syllabus during the lessons.

Oral examination possible for minores-students or students with extra facilities.

Ufora offers a complete study-vademecum (examples of questions from exams etc.) ; there is a trial exam in November or December; we solve example-questions in class.

The NPE (2,5%) consists of a bibliographical assignment to learn to use the heuristic means specific to ancient philosophy in order to find recent publications on a topic individually assigned.

When students do not participate in one or more parts of the evaluation (exercises, exam) or obtains less than half of the points of one or more such parts, it is not possible to pass for the whole of the course. In case the final score is 10 or more out of 20, this grade will be reduced to the highest possible not-passed grade (i.e. 9/20).

Second chance

The student can keep partial credits, if acquired on one of the parts during the first examination period, and only needs to partake in the other part. In case the final score is 10 or more out of 20, but the score on one of the parts is again insufficient, the final total grade will be reduced to the highest possible not-passed grade (i.e. 9/20).

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical (97,5 %); non-periodical (2,5 %)

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance
- 2 Possible rescheduling of an oral examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given online or during an appointment during office hours

For more information contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy: [https://www.ugent.](https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm)

[be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm](https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm)