

History of Modern Philosophy (A003408)

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

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Bleys, Kjell

LW01

staff member

Acosta, Emiliano

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Political ontology, ideology, social contract, political authority, sovereignty, the law, relation between ethics, religion and politics, tolerance, political freedom, recognition, alienation, property, Enlightenment

Position of the course

The course is BA and relies on former philosophical and moral philosophical knowledge. It aims at mastering general competences such as autonomous thinking, arguing, and acquiring / processing knowledge of modern philosophy, the capacity of critical reflection and the creative dealing with topics of the Western intellectual modern history.

Contents

This course offers a contextual introduction to the thinking of a number of important modern philosophers eg. Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, Rousseau, Kant, Schiller, Fichte, Schelling, Hegel) by focusing on some specific issues, including:

- The genesis of the modern State
- State of nature and social contract
- Man as a subject of the law
- Inequality
- Tolerance and freedom
- Tensions between ethics and politics
- Recognition and alienation
- Ideology

Initial competences

An introductory knowledge in philosophy is needed. To know how to read and write in Dutch. Good passive knowledge of English. Basic knowledge of German is desirable.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to understand and interpret modern philosophical texts.
- 2 To be able to debate in an argumentative way about social issues concerning tolerance, freedom, emancipation, legitimation of power.
- 3 To be able to evaluate the relevance of modern philosophical problems and solutions for contemporary societal debates.
- 4 To be able to situate the most important determinants of the development of modern

philosophy in their cultural historical context.

- 5 To be able to argue in an informed and consistent way about modern philosophical problems.
- 6 To be able to make connections between different themes and arguments in modern philosophical texts.
- 7 Understanding of the ideological and/or philosophical assumptions that underlie the modern political-philosophical discourses.
- 8 To be able to reproduce, argumentatively defend and evaluate the arguments of modern philosophers.
- 9 To be able to distinguish between different modern philosophical trends and styles.

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

During the lectures, a systematic and historical introduction to the topics of the course will be offered, based on compulsory and secondary literature. The lectures will also offer a systematic presentation of the compulsory literature.

During the seminars the original texts will be analyzed and discussed in interaction among the students and under direction of the teaching staff.

Learning materials and price

The texts will be made available to the students through Ufora.

Price of learning material: if necessary, printing costs.

References

Extended bibliography in reader.

Course content-related study coaching

By appointment.

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

An detailed overview will be given during the first meeting.

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam: 100%

Facilities for Working Students

For more information concerning flexible learning: <http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuden>