

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 2024-2025

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Demarest, Boris

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

crdts 5

offering A

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Philosophy and Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Nature, Philosophy of Mind; The Mind-Body Problem; the mechanistic philosophy, the "way of ideas", idealism and skepticism; knowledge and certainty: metaphysical foundations of natural science

Position of the course

Position of the course in the BA program in **Philosophy**:

This course belongs to the module "history and text" and therefore offers a more detailed survey of an important period in the history of philosophy by means of direct contact with primary texts. In this manner, it offers students more thorough knowledge of early modern philosophy and a more thorough insight in main problems, concepts, and arguments from this period. In addition, this course serves to develop students' ability to independently read, understand, analyze, and evaluate philosophical texts from the period.

Thematically this course also covers main early modern approaches to problems in the fields of metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of nature, philosophy of science, and philosophy of mind addressed in the module Logic, Knowledge, and Science.

Finally, this course trains students in general philosophical skills such as the analysis and evaluations of philosophical arguments.

Position of the course in the BA program **Moral Sciences**:

This course belongs to the philosophical courses in the program of moral sciences.

It

offers students a more detailed survey of an important period in the history of philosophy by means of direct contact with primary texts. In this manner, it offers students more thorough knowledge of early modern philosophy and a more thorough insight in

main problems, concepts, and arguments from this period. In addition, this course serves to develop students' ability to independently read, understand, analyze, and evaluate philosophical texts from the period.

Finally, this course trains students in general philosophical skills such as the analysis and evaluations of philosophical arguments.

Contents

This course offers an introduction to main problems and topics in early modern

philosophy from a contextual approach.

Initial competences

This course is offered, in the model track, in the first semester of the second year of the Bachelor program. Students are expected to have a basic insight in the history of philosophy and its periodization and can situate the early modern period within this history, and that they have already acquired a basic knowledge of general philosophical concepts and a basic competence in philosophical argumentation

In addition, students are expected to have, besides advanced knowledge of the teaching language (Dutch), an advanced passive knowledge of English. Passive knowledge of French, German, and Latin is recommended, but not required.

Final competences

- 1 Acquaintance with important philosophical concepts, positions, and arguments from the early modern periode.
- 2 The ability to relate these concepts, positions, and arguments to each other.
- 3 The ability to correctly characterize these concepts, positions, and arguments in one's own words.
- 4 The ability to independently read early modern philosophical texts, to identify their main concepts, theses, and arguments, and to characterize the latter in one's own words.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

This course takes the form of a seminar, in which students discuss with the teacher an assigned text by means of assigned reading questions. Students are therefore expected to prepare thoroughly for the sessions and to participate actively in the discussion during the sessions.

The discussions in group are complemented by short introductory and intermediate clarifications by the teacher.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

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>