

Ancient and Medieval Philosophy Texts (A003409)

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
			independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Praet, Danny	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
De Vos, Benjamin	LW01	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	crdts	offering
	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Philosophical primary sources from Antiquity, Middle Ages and Renaissance, textual analysis, interpretation

Position of the course

This basic course will help students become acquainted with the problems of interpreting philosophical texts from Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, (read in translation); students will be confronted with a number of different modern interpretations of ancient, medieval and renaissance texts.

Contents

To read and comment a number of thematically linked philosophical texts (in translation) from ancient, medieval and renaissance philosophers, together with a number of modern interpretations.

Initial competences

Preferably: To have successfully completed the courses History of ancient philosophy and History of mediaeval philosophy or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To be able to read and interpret philosophical works written by ancient, medieval and renaissance authors, taking into account the historical context they were written in as well as the philosophical tradition they belong to.
- 2 To be able to analyse and summarise the argumentation of the texts discussed.
- 3 To be able to trace the theme of the anthology diachronically over several works.
- 4 To be able to discuss modern interpretations critically.
- 5 To be able to express personal philosophical reflections on the discussed texts.
- 6 To learn to read ancient philosophical texts independently, as well as recent scientific literature, to learn to write a paper about these texts, and to learn to participate in an oral debate.

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Seminar: critical and interactive analysis of the texts; the students will be asked to prepare sections of the texts in advance, to ask questions and to introduce problems for discussions.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Plato Republic, oxford world's classics, tr. Robin Waterfield

Indicative price: € 15

Optional: no

Type: Syllabus

Name: pdf op ufora

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: pdf on ufora

References

References and broader philosophical context in the reader, see also
The reading material will be made available in pdf on Ufora.

Course content-related study coaching

By the lecturer before and after each lecture, during weekly contact hours
(Thursday 14-16 h)

Assessment moments

end-of-term 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

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical: exam (100%)

Assessment form

Written exam, with an oral examination possible for students taking this course as an elective

Calculation of the examination mark

100 % periodical

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; a task can imposed in substitution after discussion with the lecturer
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given by telephone or 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

