

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 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Praet, Danny

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

De Vos, Benjamin

LW01

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

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 give an oral presentation.

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.

Learning materials and price

A corpus of ancient and medieval philosophical texts (excerpts) in translation and a corpus of secondary texts: articles and chapters from recent books regarding the primary texts and the central theme, available for free on Ufora.

The theme this year will be Heraclitus through the ages. We will read the fragments of Heraclitus and study the way later philosophers as Plato and Aristotle, the Stoics e.a. dealt with the philosophy of Heraclitus in their own work. We will also read modern philosophers who were very influential for the modern historiography of ancient philosophy such as Hegel and Nietzsche who interpreted Heraclitus in different ways from the point of view of their own philosophy. These texts will be made available on Ufora in pdf, so free of charge.

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 and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions, Written assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions, Written assessment, Assignment

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 moment

Periodical: exam (70%)

Assessment form

Written exam with an oral examination possible for minores-students.

The assignment is about an individual topic chosen by the students but related to the theme of the anthology, and should use at least two scientific publications related to an ancient or medieval text, not part of the anthology.

Essay 30 %

Calculation of the examination mark

70 % periodical

30 % non-periodical: essay

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

