

Master's Dissertation (A003412)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 20.0

Study time 600 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

master's dissertation

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Bleys, Kjell

LW01

staff member

Lefever, Merel

LW01

staff member

Schreel, Louis

LW01

staff member

Van Dyck, Maarten

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Master of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

crdts

20

offering

A

[Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

20

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research project, scientific communication

Position of the course

The master's dissertation completes the academic formation in the field of philosophy/moral sciences. The student is expected to conduct scientific research individually and report on his/her findings within a given time-frame, both by handing in a written dissertation and by an oral presentation and defense in which he/she demonstrates that all the final competences are acquired.

Contents

The emphasis is not exclusively on the originality of the theme, but also on the scientific exploration of the theme. Important objectives are:

- formulating a research question against the backdrop of recent literature
- analysing sources of information (primary sources, historical literature,...)
- interpreting the collected materials consistent with current knowledge
- demonstrating writing skills, capacity to synthesize and formulating conclusions.

Intermediate group seminars are organized during the year. During these sessions, the progress of the master's thesis is discussed and students are given intermediate assignments consistent with the achievement of the final competencies.

The supervisor is responsible for the development of the content of the paper and provides at least 3 moments of contact at which feedback is provided after the general subject of the thesis has been agreed upon.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge about the specific area of research is expected. The student also has advanced knowledge of and insight into the field of philosophy/moral sciences. An investigating attitude and basic skills relating to the ability to conduct research individually, formulating research questions, reporting and communicating about research findings etc. are expected. The student will develop these skills further by working on the Master's dissertation.

Final competences

- 1 Identify and delineate relevant philosophical or ethical problems.

(Approved)

- 2 Select and interpret relevant sources of information regarding a specific research question.
- 3 Formulate a clear *status quaestionis* regarding a specific research question in the fields of philosophy/ethics/moral sciences.
- 4 Select the most suitable methodology to contribute to a solution to the research question.
- 5 Properly apply a theoretical framework to a specific research question.
- 6 Formulate a strong philosophical/ethical argumentation concerning a specific research question in a structured, clear and coherent manner.
- 7 Deal with sources of information in a critical and scientifically correct way.
- 8 Process relevant literature adequately in an original and relevant contribution that answers the initial research question.
- 9 Founding intermediary and final conclusions on presented material, analyses and argumentation.
- 10 Using correct academic language, both grammatically, orthographically and stilistically (professional, clear, scientific).
- 11 Applying a transparent and consistent reference system.
- 12 Compiling a complete and consistent bibliography and list of references.
- 13 Neatly presenting a thesis (lay-out, typography, page numbers, title page,...).
- 14 Adequately incorporating feedback into a research project.
- 15 Communicating the contents of a research project in a brief, clear and scientific presentation.
- 16 Orally explaining scientific findings and properly responding to critical questions regarding those findings.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Master's dissertation

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Supervision, individual and group, by the supervisor, (possibly in collaboration another member of the research and/or teaching staff of the department), the collaborators/co-teachers of this course.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The master's thesis is read and evaluated by three readers (including the supervisor and possible co-supervisor). The evaluation is done through a rubric and a written evaluation report. These readers are also responsible for evaluating the oral defense. The reading committee may decide to deviate from the score determined on the average of the individual scores, subject to justification.

Calculation of the examination mark

- Written paper: 80%

- Participation in the group seminars including mid-term assignments: 10%
- Oral defense: 10%

Facilities for Working Students

In consultation with the lecturers of this course.