

## Philosophical Methodology I (A005205)

**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 2025-2026**

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

seminar

independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Vercoutere, Sofie

LW01

staff member

Claes, Tom

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

crdts 5

offering A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Philosophy, Ethics, Moral Science, Research skills, Methodology, Bibliography, Referencing, Heuristics

**Position of the course**

The aim of this course is to provide the student with a basis for research and reporting skills and the development of research-oriented attitudes that are indispensable in the later years of the philosophy and moral sciences courses. The student learns to work properly with the (digital) library, learns to define a philosophical, ethical or moral scientific research domain, to formulate associated research questions and to look up relevant philosophical and ethical professional literature in this regard. The student learns to process literature into a structured paper, to draw up a bibliography (with specialized software), to critically examine the work of himself and a fellow student (discuss/explain orally and in writing in a group discussion) and to present the paper in a professional manner (using a poster/presentation).

At the end of the course, students are expected to have studied at least two basic works of philosophy/ethics and to be able to develop discipline-specific arguments into a coherent whole, both written and oral.

**Contents**

The following elements will be situated within a philosophical and/or moral science context:

- Introduction to the physical and digital library and relevant databases within the domain of philosophy and ethics
- Formulating research questions, drawing up a research plan and substantiating it
- Individual discussions of research questions
- Overview of bibliographic styles
- Discussion definition of plagiarism, paraphrasing, and citing
- Responsible use of AI when writing a research paper in philosophy and ethics
- The structure of a research paper
- Arguing in a research paper

- Use of the bibliographic and research software systems Endnote and/or Zotero
- Peer review of a draft paper with oral discussion in subgroups
- Creating a poster/presentation with the summary of your research
- Presenting the paper in a small subgroup based on the poster/presentation
- Preparing referee reports
- Final editing of a research paper

### **Initial competences**

Starting competences are the final attainment levels of secondary education (or a comparable level).

### **Final competences**

- 1 Students are able to delineate a field & theme of research within philosophy & ethics, and to formulate research questions.
- 2 Students are able to identify, locate, retrieve, read and integrate relevant scholarly literature.
- 3 Students know how to use the most important (digital as well as non-digital) databases and catalogues within the domain of philosophy and moral science.
- 4 Student are familiar with the main citation systems and are able to use them.
- 5 Students are able to generate a correct bibliographical survey and list with reference to a specific research theme.
- 6 Students know the concepts of quoting, paraphrasing & citing and are able to correctly apply these in a paper.
- 7 Students have a clear concept of plagiarism and value intellectual fairness.
- 8 Students are familiar with the proper structure of a research paper and are able to apply this structure to their own work.
- 9 Students are willing to discuss papers (even in randomly assigned groups) with their peers and others (orally or via a webforum).
- 10 Students are able to discuss papers of their peers, either orally or in written form.
- 11 Students are willing to critically reflect on the drafts of their research and use this feedback in subsequent versions of their paper.
- 12 Students are able to generate bibliographies with Endnote and/or Zotero.
- 13 Students are able to present the results of their research in an oral presentation, using presentation techniques such as Powerpoint (max. 5 slides) or a poster.
- 14 Responsible use of generative AI within philosophical and moral scientific research.

### **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, Independent work

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Seminars and PC-class exercises: the introductory classes are mainly structured on a seminar format. Students learn the skills for working in and with the university libraries, included the electronic library. Students also learn how to effectively work with citation and research software like Endnote and Zotero.

PGO-Tutorials: Students choose their own research subject, delineate the field, generate research questions, collect relevant information and sources, etc. Students individually prepare drafts of their paper and then move on to peer-evaluation and peer-tutoring, often in small groups and via an eforum (Minerva). It is important that students complete all these steps.

### **Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: Supporting handbook (not mandatory): Academic skills for interdisciplinary studies (ISBN 9789463725118)

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: yes

Language : Dutch

ISBN : 978-9-46372-511-8

Type: Syllabus

Name: Een bundel teksten (elk academiejaar aangepast) wordt beschikbaar gesteld via Ufora

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Handouts

Name: Manuals including Zotero

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

## References

Variable (see Ufora).

## Course content-related study coaching

Students may contact the course coordinator: [sofie.vercoutere@ugent.be](mailto:sofie.vercoutere@ugent.be). If needed, students can make individual appointments (preferably by email). An online meeting is possible.

## Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

## Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Skills test, Assignment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

## Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent evaluation: It is important that the student completes the entire learning and assignment process. Students are evaluated at every step of this process. Remediation is possible and assistance is provided at every step of the process.

If due to unforeseen circumstances a student can't participate in or complete any given step of the process, this student immediately has to inform the course coordinator.

Should the lecturer decide that the student's absence or his or hers not handing in the assignment on time is excusable, then the lecturer can provide the student with another comparable assignment and deadline. The lecturer can, however, also waive the assignment.

In case of non-excusability, the lecturer can fail the student for this assignment or the course.

## Calculation of the examination mark

- drafting research question, motivation & oral elucidation: 10 pts
- referee report & writing exercise 'how to write a philosophy paper': 10 pts
- draft version of paper: 15 pts
- constructive participation in group processes: 5 pts
- Abstract: 5 pts
- final version of paper: 25 pts
- bibliography: 10 pts
- presentation & discussion: 20 pts

The total score of 100 is recalculated to a score on 20. Students who don't

participate in one or more parts of the evaluation cannot pass the course. The final score will be reduced to a non-deliberative grade in case the final score is higher.

### **Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the final discussion to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours, by mail or videocall.

Extra information:

About five classes are indispensable. Instructions are given about what is expected of the paper. In case of exemption from educational activities a substitution task is imposed and the possibility of individual counseling is offered. The group assignment is obligatory.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy