

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 2023-2024

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Vercoutere, Sofie

LW01

staff member

Claes, Tom

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

5

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

Aim of the course is to provide the student with the relevant skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for (independent & group-related) research in philosophy and moral sciences. Students learn how to use the libraries, structure a paper, prepare bibliographies, use different citation styles, delineate a research theme and generate research questions tailored to philosophy and/or moral sciences.

Students also learn how to critically engage with each other's work, and how to present the results of their research.

Students are expected by the end of the course to have critically read at least two founding text from philosophy/ethics and have developen a way of argumentation relevant to philosophy/ethics.

Contents

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

- Introduction, working with and within libraries
- Formulating research questions
- Drafting a research plan
- Individual feedback on proposed research questions
- Overview citation and bibliographic styles
- Plagiarism, the pitfalls of quoting and paraphrasing
- Structuring a research paper
- Argumentation strategies
- Using the bibliographic software programs Endnote and/or Zotero
- Writing a peer review
- Presenting a paper
- Writing referee-reports
- Editing the 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.
- 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)

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.

Learning materials and price

- Texts
 - Powerpoint presentations
 - Links to relevant material on the Web
 - Manuals Endnote & Zotero
 - Main way of distribution: Ufora
- Cost: approx. 10.0 EUR

References

Variable (see Ufora).

Course content-related study coaching

Students may contact the course coordinator: sofie.vercutere@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