

## Analysis of Texts from Modern and Contemporary Philosophy: Anglo-American Tradition (A005206)

**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 (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

### Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Kolen, Filip

LW01

staff member

Van de Vijver, Gertrudis

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Vanrie, Wim

LW01

co-lecturer

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

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

- Analytical philosophy
- Analytical philosophy of language
- Gottlob Frege
- Bertrand Russell
- Saul Kripke
- Ludwig Wittgenstein
- Meaning
- Reference
- Rigid designators

### Position of the course

This course consists in a thoroughgoing study — both in class and independently — of a selection of foundational texts from the history of analytical philosophy. We will analyse the content of these texts, and situate them historically.

### Contents

In class, we focus on three texts:

- 'Über Sinn und Bedeutung' by Gottlob Frege (1892)
- 'On Denoting' by Bertrand Russell (1905)
- 'Naming and Necessity' by Saul Kripke (1970)

We will comment on and discuss a selection of fragments from these texts. Topics that will come up, include:

- The relation between epistemology and ontology
- Which philosophical assumptions and methods can we see at work in these texts?
- The role of logic and language in the analytical tradition
- The origins of the analytical tradition
- The historical evolution of the analytical tradition
- The philosophical background against which the analytical tradition came to be

Besides the treatment of these three texts in class, students will read the 'Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus' (1921) by Ludwig Wittgenstein in autonomous groups (cartels). This text will be discussed in group at the end of the semester.

### **Initial competences**

Familiarity with elementary formal logic is recommended, as taught in the course 'Logic I' (or equivalent)

### **Final competences**

- 1 Having insight in core aspects of the historical origins and evolution of the analytical tradition in philosophy
- 2 Having insight in central concepts and issues from analytical philosophy of language
- 3 Reading, understanding, and analysing philosophical texts autonomously
- 4 Fruitfully interpreting philosophical texts
- 5 Comparing the problems and arguments of different philosophical texts
- 6 Orally debating the interpretation of philosophical texts in a constructive fashion

### **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**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

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

- During the lectures and seminars, we discuss the texts of Frege, Russell, and Kripke
- The group work consists in reading the 'Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus' in small reading groups

### **Study material**

Type: Reader

Name: Study of texts out of modern and contemporary philosophy: Anglo-American tradition.

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Number of Pages : 100

Available on Ufora : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Additional information: Tractatus available via KMF

### **References**

### **Course content-related study coaching**

- Students will be assisted in the organization and progress of the reading groups
- Outside the classes, interactive support is provided through Ufora, in the guise of discussion fora where students can ask and discuss questions, and receive replies from the teachers
- Additional assistance is possible after appointment

### **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**

Oral assessment, Participation

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

- End-of-term: Oral exam without written preparation. Students receive two questions from a list that will be communicated in advance. They are allowed to

use notes during the exam.

- Continuous: Report and group discussions about the reading of Wittgenstein's 'Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus' in the reading groups; participation during the course.

If one does not participate in the evaluation of one or more of the subparts of the course, one can no longer pass the course as a whole. If in this case the final grade is higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-deliberable grade.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

60% end-of-term, 40% continuous

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

- Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the course
- No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus, without recordings)
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period
- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment

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