

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

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Contact hrs

45.0h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2021-2022

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

35.0h

lecture

10.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022

Kolen, Filip

LW01

staff member

Van de Vijver, Gertrudis

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Vanrie, Wim

LW01

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Anglosaxon Philosophy, analytical philosophy, continental philosophy, analytic-continental split, meaning, truth, ontology, Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Quine

Position of the course

This course teaches students how to analyse original philosophical texts that are stemming from the analytical tradition or constitute its analytical sources, on the basis of a proper reading and a confrontation with secondary literature.

Contents

The Anglosaxon tradition is studied starting from the study of three texts that are basic in analytical philosophy. We start from Frege, who, with the article "Ueber Sinn und Bedeutung", can be considered as the founder of this tradition. Further, we analyse Russell's "On Denoting", to finally come to a basic text of Quine, namely "On what there is". These articles provide the opportunity to study the changes in epistemological and ontological backgrounds going from more continentally inspired (neo-Kantian) contexts, to the analytical reading properly speaking. We encounter here important philosophical problems, such as those related to meaning, truth and ontology. Apart from these basic texts, students read in small reading groups ("cartels" = max. 5 persons), Wittgenstein's Tractatus. At the end of the semester, there is a collective discussion around this work. The contents of this course can be modified.

Initial competences

- To have knowledge of French and English is required. To have knowledge of German is recommended.
- To have successfully completed the course "Historical survey of philosophy" or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means

Final competences

- 1 To be able to situate and comment in detail the major concepts pertaining to a specific philosophical tradition.
- 2 To have an informed view in the history of philosophy, on the basis of an orientation of the most important problems and research traditions.
- 3 To be able to construct and compare the argumentative thread of the philosophical texts under study.
- 4 To adequately analyse and synthesise the philosophical texts, if possible in the language in which they were originally published.
- 5 To communicate in oral form about the questions and acquired insights.
- 6 To discuss constructively about various possible interpretations.
- 7 To acquire a sense of philosophical critique as engaged and subjected to permanent revision, through the confrontation between the own study, the interpretation of fellow students and lecturer, and relevant secondary literature.
- 8 To grasp the variations in ways of addressing problems through the confrontation of various epistemological and metaphysical backgrounds and contexts on the basis of which the studied texts are situated.

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

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture (5h): introduction to the authors and their tradition.
Seminar (40h): interactive discussion about the examined texts during the course, autonomous study of all the texts, discussion in small groups of the cartel text, and collective discussion of this text.

Learning materials and price

Texts of Frege, Russell, Quine and Wittgenstein. Cost: 20,00 EUR

References

- Frege, W.G. [1892], Ueber Sinn und Bedeutung, Zeitschrift für Philosophie und philosophische Kritik, heruitgegeven in Kleine Schriften, I. Angelelli (ed.), 1967, G. Olms Verlag, pp. 143-163.
- Frege, W.G., [1892], Over betekenis en verwijzing, Pierre Swiggers (vert.), Acco, 1984.
- Russell, B., On Denoting, [1905], in Logic and Knowledge, R.C. Marsh, London, George Allen and Unwin, 1956, pp. 41-56; <http://www.cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/Russell/denoting/>
- Kremer, M., The argument of On Denoting, Philosophical Review 103 (2):249-297.
- Quine, W.V., [1948], On what there is, in From a Logical Point of View, 1964, Harvard University Press, pp. 1-20.

Course content-related study coaching

Intensive coaching by lecturer and assistant.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral examination, Open book examination

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

Oral examination, Open book examination

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Peer assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Examination form: oral exam, with written preparation, open book (60%). The exam mainly asks questions of insight.

For the second part (40%): contribution to the collective discussion (20% interventions on the basis of the preparation of texts and 20% intercarteldebate).

Not taking part in the intercarteldebate, will lead to a non-deliberable total score.

Calculation of the examination mark

60% periodical, 40% non-periodical

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

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