

Philosophy of Modern and Contemporary Art (A005269)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	independent work seminar
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Vandenabeele, Bart	LW01	lecturer-in-charge
Vekeman, Lina	LW01	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Philosophy)	5	A
Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Philosophy	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

art theory, philosophy of art

Position of the course

Gaining insight into major issues in modern and/or contemporary theories of art. 'Modern' refers to the period: 18th-19th century; 'contemporary' to the 20th-21st century.

Contents

The course content frequently varies. We study topics such as the aesthetic, cognitive, and political value(s) of the arts, the relevance of beauty, the value(s) of conceptual art, aesthetic 'common sense', the universal validity claims of aesthetic judgements, etc. We confront seminal theoretical texts, manifestos and debates in modern and contemporary art theory and philosophy with current developments in the (visual) arts.

Initial competences

Familiarity with the most important concepts and problems in philosophical aesthetics will be presupposed (e.g. as one has taken the Aesthetics I and/or II course before).

Final competences

- 1 Be able to reflect and report consistently on important problems about modern and contemporary (theories of) art.
- 2 Be able to analyse modern and current problems concerning the arts.
- 3 Be able to evaluate the merits and flaws of diverse modern and contemporary theories of art.
- 4 Be able to correctly use the relevant terminology of modern and contemporary art theories in the most diverse circumstances.
- 5 Be able to adequately apply theoretical insights to concrete problems and debates about modern and contemporary art.
- 6 Be able to talk and write adequately on art-theoretical problems, such as the value(s) of art, aesthetic community, 'sensus communis', etc.

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Discussion about the texts; close reading; oral presentations
No lecture recordings

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: texts

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Reference list depends on the topic and will be announced in class.

Course content-related study coaching

Limited number of introductory lectures; discussions; assistance with close reading of the texts and assessment of the oral presentations; also feedback during office hours or by appointment

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, Participation, Presentation

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

Participation in discussions and oral presentations.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% permanent evaluation

Facilities for Working Students

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