

Sociology of Morals (A005445)

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 1)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

independent work

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Bleys, Kjell

LW01

staff member

Claes, Tom

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Morals, Sociology, Ethics, Moral Science, Empirical Ethics

Position of the course

The course 'Sociology of morality' is situated in the cluster 'ethics and moral science' and contributes to one of the central aspects of moral science, namely: the theorizing and mapping of the various forms of the social and cultural realization of moral systems; the critical study of morality and of the moral dimension of social phenomena; the role of morality in the social actor; and the socio-cultural-economic constitution of the moral actor.

Contents

- Morality, Ethics and Moral Science
- Sociological and Anthropological Perspectives on Morality
- Social and cultural contexts of morality and moral agency
- The moral organization of society

Initial competences

This course builds on the competences acquired in the courses Moral science, Philosophical ethics: systematics, Introduction to moral scientific research and Moral development and education. It is recommended that students have notions of sociology and anthropology.

Final competences

- 1 To have insight into the relationship between the social realization of morals, moral practices and moral theories.
- 2 To have insight into and knowledge of sociological and anthropological theories concerning the moral phenomenon.
- 3 To have insight into and knowledge of the social and cultural contexts that shape morality and moral agency.
- 4 To have insight into and knowledge of the moral dimension of society and how this is shaped by moral systems.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

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

In addition to the plenary classes, students will follow group tutorials focusing on the guided discussion of primary texts. For each group tutorial, specific reading assignments will be given.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Sociology of Morals

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Selection from a.o.:

Hitlin, Steven, and Stephen Vaisey, eds. 2010. Handbook of the Sociology of Morality. Handbooks of Sociology and Social Research. New York: Springer.

Fassin, Didier, ed. 2012. A Companion to Moral Anthropology. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Fassin, Didier, and Samuel Léze, eds. 2013. Moral Anthropology: A Critical Reader. London & New York: Routledge.

Seidman, Steven. 2017. Contested Knowledge: Social Theory Today. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Course content-related study coaching

Via the digital learning environment or by 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

Participation

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

Two parts are evaluated: 1) the group tutorials, 2) oral exam. The criteria will be explained during the introductory plenary class and Ufora.

Calculation of the examination mark

Calculation: Group tutorials: 40%; Oral exam: 60%.

Facilities for Working Students

Students should contact the professor or assistant to ask for the possibilities.

Attendance during most lessons is recommended. For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy.