

## History and Philosophy of Science (A005610)

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

**Credits 9.0**

**Study time 270 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026**

A (Year)

English

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Schilt, Cornelis Johannes

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Ducheyne, Steffen

LW01

co-lecturer

Van Dyck, Maarten

LW01

co-lecturer

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

[Research Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

**crdts**

9

**offering**

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

History and philosophy of science

**Position of the course**

This course is one of the eighteen research seminars that constitute the core of the master programme. Depending on initial qualifications, students enrol for three or five such research seminars.

**Contents**

In this seminar, students will learn to examine philosophy of science issues based on case studies from the history of science. The lecturers' historical expertise is mainly situated in the period between the 16<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with a focus on the natural and bio-medical sciences. The perspectives of philosophy of science can be diverse (methodology, modelling practice, metaphysics, ...), but are always chosen for their relevance for contemporary philosophical debates.

**Initial competences**

Knowledge of philosophy of science and history of science at intermediate level.  
Competent in philosophical writing and argumentation.

**Final competences**

- 1 Ability to formulate original and innovative research problems based on the duly founded insight into the internationally recognised state-of-the-art in the domain of history and philosophy of science.
- 2 Ability to work out original solutions to the selected research problems within history and philosophy of science, and argue for them clearly and convincingly.
- 3 Ability to deepen one's knowledge of history and philosophy of science independently.
- 4 Ability to report on research orally in a clearly-understood manner.

**Conditions for credit contract**

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

**Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

**Teaching methods**

Seminar, Independent work

**Study material**

None

**References****Course content-related study coaching****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**

Skills test, Participation, Assignment

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

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Oral presentation of research results, participation in discussions during  
Paper assignments, written research reports.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Participation & presentation: 40%  
Paper: 60%