

Philosophical Anthropology (A005612)

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

De Vries, Bouke

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Research Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

crdts

9

offering

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

human nature; human existence; worldviews; meaning of life; free will and autonomy

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

This seminar addresses the philosophical problems arising from the portrayal of mankind which, as a result of various scientific developments and insights, is increasingly naturalized. The research questions address the issue of meaning and purpose, freedom, autonomy and responsibility, and of existential attitudes towards finiteness. Examples are: How to engage in search for meaning without a frame of reference that is external to man? How to develop ethics if human behaviour is completely causally determined? What is the value of subjective experiences if these can be entirely reduced to brain processes? How do we deal with human suffering and death without adding a deeper meaning or significance?

Initial competences

Knowledge of philosophical anthropology 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
- 2 Ability to work out original solutions to the selected research problems, and argue them clearly and convincingly
- 3 Ability to deepen one's knowledge of this domain independently
- 4 Ability to report on research orally in a clearly-understood manner

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

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**

Individual help is offered by the lecturers

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

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent evaluation: oral presentation of research results, participation in discussions during seminars, paper assignments, written research reports
(Paper assignments and written research reports: deadlines within the end-of-term period)

Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent evaluation: 40%
End-of-term evaluation: 60%