

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 2026-2027

A (Year) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Vries, Bouke LW01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Research Master of Arts in Philosophy	crdts	offering
	9	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

human nature; human existence; anthropology; behavioral genetics; evolutionary ethics; free will and autonomy; philosophy of technology

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 mainly examines recent advances in genetics and related technologies – such as genetic prediction, embryo selection, and gene editing – through a philosophical lens. Questions addressed include, without necessarily being limited to: What implications, if any, do these developments have for our understanding of human nature, including concepts like free will and the role of environmental influences on behavior? What ethical opportunities and risks do they present? And to what extent, if any, should governments regulate or subsidize this kind of research and its applications?

Initial competences

Knowledge of philosophical anthropology at intermediate level

Competent in philosophical writing and argumentation

Final competences

- 1 Ability to formulate philosophically relevant research questions grounded in a well-informed understanding of the state of the art in the field.
- 2 Ability to develop original solutions to selected philosophical research problems and to present and defend them clearly.
- 3 Ability to independently deepen one's knowledge within the domain.

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

Type: Reader

Name: Plomin, Robert. 2018. Blueprint: How DNA Makes Us Who We Are. Cambridge, Massachusetts London, England: Mit Pr.
Indicative price: € 24
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : No
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No

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: Participation in seminar discussions, completion of paper assignments, and oral presentation of research.

End-of-term evaluation: Final research paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

Permanent evaluation: 40%

End-of-term evaluation: 60%