

## Contemporary Continental Philosophy (A005613)

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

**Credits 9.0**

**Study time 270 h**

### Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024

A (Year)

English

Gent

### Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Keymeulen, Kobe

LW01

staff member

Van de Vijver, Gertrudis

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Acosta, Emiliano

LW01

co-lecturer

Cools, Arthur

UA

co-lecturer

Reynaert, Peter

UA

co-lecturer

### Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Research Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

**crdts**

9

**offering**

A

### Teaching languages

English

### Keywords

Continental philosophy, (naturalized) phenomenology, existential philosophy, political philosophy, subject and object, Agamben, Blanchot, Derrida, Lacan, Levinas, Merleau-Ponty, Nancy, Negri, Virno, Žižek.

### 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

The seminar consists of a series of minimally 5 meetings spread over the whole academic year, where students, guided by a lecturer or tutor, discuss and exchange ideas related to prominent themes in contemporary continental philosophy. Each meeting is coordinated by one of the tutors (who may be assisted by a post-doc or a PhD student enrolled for the seminar). The coordinator makes sure that there is a list of relevant literature made available in the beginning of the academic year. Meetings are organized in Ghent, on Friday afternoon, from 2 PM till 4.30/5 PM.

The aim of this seminar is to incite beginning researchers to set up innovating and articulate academic research up to date with current literature, and to give shape to their thought in one or more papers ready for submission to a peer reviewed journal. Moreover, the students will be assisted in preparing a research proposal to be submitted as a PhD application. The aim is eventually to attract and (co-) supervise doctoral students who do active research on contemporary continental philosophy, nationally and internationally. The assessment is continuous and end-of-term, and concerns the participation during the meetings, the preparation of the paper(s), the contribution to a research proposal, and the final paper(s).

**Lecturers:** Gertrudis Van de Vijver (UGent), Emiliano Acosta (UGent-VUB),

Sonja Lavaert (VUB), Peter Reynaert (UA), Arthur Cools (UA).

(Corona: efforts are made to let the classes take place on campus as much as possible. If the groups are too large to keep the distance, they will be split up using a rotation system.)

### Initial competences

Knowledge of Contemporary Continental Philosophy at intermediate level.  
Competent in philosophical argumentation and writing.

### Final competences

- 1 Ability to formulate original and innovative research problems based on a duly founded insight into the internationally recognised literature in that domain.
- 2 Ability to work out original hypotheses in relation to the selected research problems, and argue for possible articulations in a clear and convincing way.
- 3 Ability to deepen one's knowledge of this domain independently.
- 4 Ability to report on research orally in a structured and articulate 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, Lecture, Independent work

### Extra information on the teaching methods

Guided self-study, 15 h.  
Seminar, 10 h.  
Lectures: 5 h.

### Learning materials and price

Texts by Derrida, Lacan, Levinas, Merleau-Ponty, Nancy, Negri, Virno, Žižek will be made available well on time. Lecturers welcome suggestions made by the participants to read and discuss texts immediately relevant to their research ideas.

### References

A selection of texts will be chosen, depending on their publication date and availability in English and made available at the beginning of the academic year. Here is a provisional list:

G. Agamben, *Homo sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, Stanford University Press, 1995.

M. Blanchot, *The Space of Literature*, The University of Nebraska Press, 1989.

J. Derrida, *Force of Law: The Mystical Foundation of Authority*, in: Drucilla Cornell, Michel Rosenfeld & David Carlson (eds.), *Deconstruction and the Possibility of Justice*, Routledge, 1992.

Agamben, G., (2006) "Form-of-Life", in: *Means Without End*, Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota University Press; (2016) *The Use of Bodies*, Palo Alto: Stanford University Press,

Carel, H. & D. Meacham (eds.), (2013) *Phenomenology and Naturalism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

A. Cools, "Disastrous responsibility: Blanchot's Criticism of Levinas's Concept of Subjectivity in "The Writing of the Disaster", in *Levinas studies: an annual review*, 6(2011), p. 113-130.

Gabriel, G. & Žižek, S., (2009) *Mythology, madness, and laughter: subjectivity in German idealism*, London: Continuum.

S. Gallagher and D. Zahavi: *The Phenomenological Mind*, London, Routledge 2008.

Hardt, M. & Negri, A., (2017) *Assembly*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Lacan, J.-J., (1966) "Kant avec Sade", in: *Écrits*, Paris: Seuil, pp. 765-792.; (1966) "Subversion du sujet et dialectique du désir", in: *Écrits*, pp. 793-828; (1966) "La science et la vérité", in: *Écrits*, pp. 855-878.

Lavaert, S., (2013) "Bartleby's Tragic Aporia", in Gielen (ed.), *Institutional Attitudes*, Valiz, 2013; (2017) "Instituting the Common: the Perspective of the Multitude", in Ruivenkamp & Hilton (eds.), *Perspectives on Commoning*, London: Zed Books.

E. Levinas, "Heidegger, Gagarin and Us", in Idem, *Difficult Freedom: Essays on Judaism*, The John Hopkins University Press, 1990, pp. 231-234.

J.-L. Nancy, "The Image - the Distinct", in Idem, *The Ground of the Image*, Fordham University Press, 2005.

Negri, A., (2011) *Art and Multitude*, London: Polity

Reynaert, P., (2016) "Neuroscientific Dystopia: Does Naturalism commit a category

mistake?", in: De Vos, J. & Pluth, E. (eds.), *Neuroscience and Critique Exploring the Limits of the Neurological Turn*, Oxon: Routledge.

Virno, P., (2015) *When the Word Becomes Flesh*, Cambridge, MA: Semiotext(e).

Žižek, S. (1989) *The Sublime Object of Ideology*, London: Verso.

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Individual help is offered by the lecturers

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Assignment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Assignment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Peer and/or self assessment

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

not applicable

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

End-of-term evaluation (60%) and continuous assessment (40%).

Permanent evaluation: preparation of the seminar through individual study, participation in the discussion, oral presentation of research results, participation in the discussion of the presentations and the papers of fellow students.

End-of-term evaluation: paper assignments, written research reports.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

End-of-term evaluation (60%) and continuous assessment (40%).

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

Appropriate alternatives will be proposed for working-students.