

Master's Dissertation (A006771)

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

Credits 28.0

Study time 840 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Bleys, Kjell

LW01

staff member

Lefevere, Merel

LW01

staff member

Schreel, Louis

LW01

staff member

Vanmeerhaeghe, Emilie

LW17

staff member

Claes, Tom

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject Philosophy\)](#)

crdts

28

offering

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research project, scientific communication

Position of the course

The master's dissertation completes the academic formation in the field of philosophy. The student is expected to conduct scientific research individually and report on his/her findings within a given time-frame, both by handing in a written dissertation and by an oral presentation and defense in which he/she demonstrates that all the final competences are acquired.

Contents

The emphasis is not exclusively on the originality of the theme, but also on the scientific exploration of the theme. Important objectives are:

- formulating a research question against the backdrop of recent literature
- analysing sources of information (primary sources, historical literature,...)
- interpreting the collected materials consistent with current knowledge
- demonstrating writing skills, capacity to synthesize and formulating conclusions.

In addition to the philosophical research, a related educational problem or research question is also formulated. The education-relevant research conducted to answer that question allows for a contribution to educational practice and/or educational policy. There are a number of options:

- An educational literature review where the chosen philosophical topic is illuminated from an educational perspective.
- An educational research and design cycle on the philosophical .
- The educational component and the philosophical topic are integrated into one didactic study.

Intermediate group seminars are organized during the year. During these sessions, the progress of the master's thesis is discussed and students are given intermediate assignments consistent with the achievement of the final competencies.

The supervisor is responsible for the development of the content of the paper and provides at least 3 moments of contact at which feedback is provided after the general subject of the thesis has been agreed upon.

Initial competences

Basic knowledge about the specific area of research is expected. The student also has advanced knowledge of and insight into the field of philosophy/moral sciences. An investigating attitude and basic skills relating to the ability to conduct research individually, formulating research questions, reporting and communicating about research findings etc. are expected. The student will develop these skills further by working on the Master's dissertation.

Final competences

- 1 Identify and delineate relevant philosophical problems.
- 2 Select and interpret relevant sources of information regarding a specific research question.
- 3 Formulate a clear *status quaestionis* regarding a specific research question in the fields of philosophy/ethics/moral sciences.
- 4 Select the most suitable methodology to contribute to a solution to the research question.
- 5 Properly apply a theoretical framework to a specific research question.
- 6 Formulate a strong philosophical/ethical argumentation concerning a specific research question in a structured, clear and coherent manner.
- 7 Deal with sources of information in a critical and scientifically correct way.
- 8 Process relevant literature adequately in an original and relevant contribution that answers the initial research question.
- 9 Founding intermediary and final conclusions on presented material, analyses and argumentation.
- 10 Using correct academic language, both grammatically, orthographically and stilistically (professional, clear, scientific).
- 11 Applying a transparent and consistent reference system.
- 12 Compiling a complete and consistent bibliography and list of references.
- 13 Neatly presenting a thesis (lay-out, typography, page numbers, title page,...).
- 14 Adequately incorporating feedback into a research project.
- 15 Communicating the contents of a research project in a brief, clear and scientific presentation.
- 16 Communicating the contents of a research project in a brief, clear and scientific presentation.
- 17 Demonstrate the educational relevance of philosophical research.

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

Master's dissertation

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Supervision, individual and group, by the supervisor (possibly in collaboration another member of the research and/or teaching staff of the department), the collaborators/co-teachers of this course.

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

Professional practice, Oral assessment, Written assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form
(Approved)

Extra information on the examination methods

The master's thesis is read and evaluated by three readers (including the supervisor and possible co-supervisor). The evaluation is done through a rubric and a written evaluation report. These readers are also responsible for evaluating the written evaluation and oral defense.

It is a shared responsibility of the student, the supervisor and/or the adviser to hold at least three meetings during the dissertation process. Participation in these meetings is required to submit the written dissertation.

Calculation of the examination mark

The final mark is determined once the compulsory assessment components (process, written dissertation, written evaluation and oral defence) are completed. It is not simply the sum of these components but reflects the extent to which the student has achieved the intended learning outcomes. In this regard, the oral defence is essential for determining whether the student can justify the content and genesis of the Master's dissertation and whether the dissertation meets the criteria for academic integrity.

Students who fail to fulfil any one of the compulsory evaluation components cannot pass the Master's dissertation. See the faculty Master's dissertation regulations for all modalities.

Facilities for Working Students

In consultation with the lecturers of this course.