

## Human Sciences (F000115)

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

**Credits 4.0**

**Study time 120 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025**

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Weber, Erik

LW01

lecturer-in-charge

Bracke, Piet

PS04

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

[Bachelor of Science in Business Economics](#)

**crdts**

**offering**

4

A

[Bachelor of Science in Business Engineering](#)

4

A

[Bachelor of Science in Economics](#)

4

A

[Bachelor of Science in Economics, Business Economics and Business Engineering \(Joint Section\)](#)

4

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Health Care Management and Policy](#)

4

A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Argumentation, inference schemes, economics, moral behaviour, moral reasoning, democracy, tolerance, distributive justice, existence, rationality.

Social structure, culture, institutionalization, social control and deviation, social stratification and social change.

**Position of the course**

The course is an introduction of philosophy and sociology. The aim is to situate economics as a human science in the field of other (human) sciences.

The course has two distinct parts with the following aims:

- 1 Insight into what six subdisciplines of philosophy (argumentation theory, philosophy of science, ethics, political philosophy, social philosophy and philosophical anthropology) contain and how they are relevant for economics as a scientific discipline..
- 2 Understanding of sociological approaches and their explanations for behaviour; knowing the main components of human organization; knowing some subdisciplines of sociology; knowing some basic concepts and theories from economic sociology

**Contents**

The following themes are treated:

- 1 Logic: correct inference schemes, fallacies en their importance for economists.
- 2 Philosophy of science: characteristics of scientific research in general, in the social sciences and in economics.
- 3 Ethics: moral behaviour and moral reasoning in general and in an economical context.
- 4 Topics in political philosophy (e.g. democracy and tolerance) and their relevance for economics.
- 5 Topics in social philosophy (e.g. justice and inequality) and their relevance for economics.

- 6 Topics in philosophical anthropology (e.g. freedom and rationality)
- 7 General description of sociology.
- 8 Forms of societal organization; social structure, culture and institutionalization.
- 9 Social control and deviation, explanation of deviant attitudes.
- 10 Explanation of social stratification and social mobility.

#### **Initial competences**

Normal analytical and synthetical reasoning skills that can be expected from a first year Bachelor student.

#### **Final competences**

- 1 Ability to distinguish correct from incorrect inference schemes.
- 2 Knowledge of the most important fallacies and the ability to recognise them.
- 3 Insight into the fundamental properties of scientific research and into the relation between economics and other disciplines in the social sciences.
- 4 Insight into the utilitarian approach in moral reasoning and its application in the economical domain.
- 5 Ability to distinguish various forms of democracy. Insight into the economic and other functions of the state.
- 6 Insight into the most important theories of distributive justice.
- 7 Ability to characterise important concepts in philosophical anthropology (existence, free will, rationality) and understand their interrelation.
- 8 To discuss the particular perspective of sociology
- 9 To define the subject of sociological research
- 10 To apply and discuss the central elements of societal organization – culture and structure
- 11 To apply and discuss the central processes of societal organization – culture and structure
- 12 To see the relationship between socialization and social control and deviant attitudes
- 13 to give the explanation for deviant behavior
- 14 To explain the different forms of social stratification
- 15 To explain the different theories of social stratification
- 16 To explain social mobility as a dynamic part of social stratification

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

#### **Teaching methods**

Lecture

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

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

Ufora and on appointment

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

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

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

The exam contains 40 multiple choice questions, 20 about the philosophical part,  
20 about the sociological part.

The exam is about reproductive knowledge and insight

**Calculation of the examination mark**

**Facilities for Working Students**

You can make a special agreement with the professor(s)