

## Empirical Ethics (A005602)

**Cursusomvang** *(nominale waarden; effectieve waarden kunnen verschillen per opleiding)*

**Studiepunten 9.0**

**Studietijd 270 u**

**Aanbodsessies in academiejaar 2025-2026**

A (Jaar)

Engels

Gent

**Lesgevers in academiejaar 2025-2026**

Provoost, Veerle

LW01

Verantwoordelijk lesgever

De Proost, Michiel

LW01

Medelesgever

**Aangeboden in onderstaande opleidingen in 2025-2026**

[Research Master of Arts in Philosophy](#)

**stptn**

**aanbodsessie**

9

A

**Onderwijstalen**

Engels

**Trefwoorden**

Empirical research; Empirical (bio)ethics; research question development; study design; critical assessment of empirical studies; attitude studies; attitude scales, moral reasoning; moral decision-making; value studies; survey; survey questionnaire construction, moral experiments; qualitative research, interview study, interview guide construction; Socratic questioning; elicitation techniques for moral reasoning; auditing; interdisciplinary data analysis; focus groups, moral dilemma deliberation; narrative analysis; grounded theory; thematic analysis; NVivo; Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis; quantitative research, statistics, data analysis; SPSS; StatXact; integration of empirical research data in normative argumentation.

**Situering**

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.

**Inhoud**

This seminar focuses on empirical research in the field of ethics and involves setting up, implementing, interpreting empirical research and integrating empirical evidence in a normative analysis. Based on the lecturer's experience of different types of empirical research (mainly related to (bio)ethical issues), the students are taught how they can develop an empirical research question and to select an appropriate method that is suitable for collecting empirical data on, for example, moral reasoning or attitudes relating to moral issues. Students are trained to critically assess the quality and value of empirical studies. Finally, the course will provide insight in methods for the integration of empirical research data in normative argumentation and in the debate about (the need for) methods for empirical ethics.

The course will take into account the discipline specific background of the students and provides an opportunity to conduct a small-scale empirical study about a discipline specific moral question.

The students are guided in research tasks related to their study, e.g. the design of the study, the design of a survey questionnaire, the construction of an interview guide for qualitative research on moral decision-making, collection of online data, data analysis, the interpretation of results, a critical reflection about the value and limitations of the study.

Every student has to 1) write a research proposal for an empirical study or write a paper based on an empirical study on a topic of choice (moral sciences) they conducted over the course of the year; 2) present their study (in its final phases) for an audience of scholars. Students will prepare drafts and/or shorter oral presentations about their work to obtain feedback from the lecturer and/or peers.

### **Begincompetenties**

Knowledge of Empirical research for ethics and bioethics at intermediate level.  
Competent in philosophical writing and argumentation

### **Eindcompetenties**

- 1 The student is able to formulate original and innovative research problems based on the duly founded insight into the internationally recognised state-of-the-art relating to the topic of study and the domain of empirical research for ethics.
- 2 The student has the ability to work out original solutions to the selected research problems, and argue for them clearly and convincingly.
- 3 The student has the ability to deepen their knowledge of this domain independently.
- 4 The student has the ability to choose a suitable research method compatible with the research question.
- 5 The student is able to conduct research and to critically assess other scholars' work according to the rules relating to scientific integrity and research ethics, both with regard to research participants (in actual forms of participating or via their contributions to data that is used as secondary data) and to the way personal data is collected, stored, and analysed.
- 6 The student is able to choose and apply compatible methods for interdisciplinary collaboration next to the chosen method(s) for data analysis.
- 7 The student is able to report on research designs and outcomes both in writing and orally (for academic peers) in a clearly-understood manner.

### **Creditcontractvoorwaarde**

Dit opleidingsonderdeel kan niet via creditcontract gevolgd worden

### **Examencontractvoorwaarde**

Dit opleidingsonderdeel kan niet via examencontract gevolgd worden

### **Didactische werkvormen**

Groepswerk, Werkcollege, Hoorcollege, Practicum, Zelfstandig werk, Peer teaching

### **Studiemateriaal**

Type: Handouts

Naam: Collection of methodological papers, examples of studies, slides, online resources and instructions.

Richtprijs: Gratis of betaald door opleiding

Optioneel: nee

Taal : Engels

Beschikbaar op Ufora : Ja

Online beschikbaar : Nee

Beschikbaar in de bibliotheek : Nee

Beschikbaar via studentenvereniging : Nee

Gebruik en levensduur binnen het opleidingsonderdeel : intensief

Gebruik en levensduur binnen de opleiding : eenmalig

Gebruik en levensduur na de opleiding : af en toe

### **Referenties**

Reference list on Minerva

### **Vakinhoudelijke studiebegeleiding**

The lecturer offers individual supervision: via face-to-face meetings and e-mail contact.

### **Evaluatiemomenten**

periodegebonden en niet-periodegebonden evaluatie

### **Evaluatievormen bij periodegebonden evaluatie in de eerste examenperiode**

Werkstuk

### **Evaluatievormen bij periodegebonden evaluatie in de tweede examenperiode**

(Voorstel)

Werkstuk

**Evaluatievormen bij niet-periodegebonden evaluatie**

Vaardigheidstest, Participatie, Werkstuk

**Tweede examenkans in geval van niet-periodegebonden evaluatie**

Niet van toepassing

**Toelichtingen bij de evaluatievormen**

Permanent evaluation: oral presentation of research results, participation in discussions during (online) seminars.

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

Feedback on the exercises will be provided immediately following the sessions or through (online) individual progress discussions (appointment).

**Eindscoreberekening**

Permanent evaluation: 40%

End-of-term evaluation: 60%

**Faciliteiten voor werkstudenten**

Given the small group, classes and meetings are scheduled with input of all students. Feedback is possible outside office hours.