Philosophical Methodology II (A001351)

Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2013-2014

Lecturers in academic year 2013-2014
Van de Vijver, Gertrudis
Van Dam, Elisabeth

Offered in the following programmes in  2013-2014
Bachelor of Arts in History
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology
Bachelor of Arts in Art Science
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Mesopotamia)
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track))
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track))
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)
Abridged Bachelor's Programme in Philosophy for students holding the diploma of 'Bachelor in de moraalwetenschappen'
Abridged Bachelor's Programme in Philosophy for students holding a diploma of bachelor awarded by a higher education institution of the Flemish Community

Course size  
Credits   5.0  Study time  150.0 h  Contact hrs  45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2013-2014
B (semester 1)  guided self-study  15.0 h
seminar  30.0 h

Offering

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
Anglosaxon Philosophy, analytical philosophy, continental philosophy, analytic-continental split, meaning, truth, ontology, Frege, Russell, Wittgenstein, Quine

Level
advanced

Position of the course
This course teaches students how to analyse original philosophical texts that are stemming from the analytical tradition or constitute its analytical sources, on the basis of a proper reading and a confrontation with secondary literature.

(Approved)
As such, this course is in keeping with the following educational competences: B.1.1, B.1.2, B.1.3, B.1.4, B.2.1, B.2.2, B.3.2, B.3.3, B.4.1, B.4.2, B.4.3, B.6.1

Contents
The Anglosaxon tradition is studied starting from the study of three texts that are basic in analytical philosophy. We start from Frege, who, with the article "Ueber Sinn und Bedeutung", can be considered as the founder of this tradition. Further, we analyse Russell's "On Denoting", to finally come to a basic text of Quine, namely "On what there is". These articles provide the opportunity to study the changes in epistemological and ontological backgrounds going from more continentally inspired (neo-Kantian) contexts, to the analytical reading properly speaking. We encounter here important philosophical problems, such as those related to meaning, truth and ontology. Apart from these basic texts, students read in small reading groups ("cartels" = max. 5 persons), Wittgenstein's Tractatus. At the end of the semester, there is a collective discussion around this work. The contents of this course can be modified.

Initial competences
- To have knowledge of French and English is required. To have knowledge of German is recommended.
- To have successfully completed the course "Historical survey of philosophy" or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences
- To be able to situate and comment in detail the major concepts pertaining to a specific philosophical tradition.
- To have an informed view in the history of philosophy, on the basis of an orientation of the most important problems and research traditions.
- To be able to construct and compare the argumentative thread of the philosophical texts under study.
- To adequately analyse and synthesise the philosophical texts, if possible in the language in which they were originally published.
- To communicate in oral and written form about the questions and acquired insights.
- To discuss constructively about various possible interpretations.
- To acquire a sense of philosophical critique as engaged and subjected to permanent revision, through the confrontation between the own study, the interpretation of fellow students and lecturer, and relevant secondary literature.
- To grasp the variations in ways of addressing problems through the confrontation of various epistemological and metaphysical backgrounds and contexts on the basis of which the studied texts are situated.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract
Access to this course unit via an exam contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Teaching methods
Guided self-study, seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods
Seminar, with a close reading of philosophical texts.

Learning materials and price
Texts of Frege, Russell, Quine and Wittgenstein. Cost: 20,00 EUR

References

(Approved)
George Allen and Unwin, 1956, pp. 41-56; http://www.cscs.umich.edu/~crshalizi/Russell/denoting/

• Quine, W.V., [1948], On what there is, in *From a Logical Point of View*, 1964, Harvard University Press, pp. 1-20.

Secondary literature

• De Pater W.A. en Swiggers P., Taal en teken. Een historisch-systematische inleiding in de taalfilosofie.
• Dummett, M., Frege and the philosophy of language,
• Dummett, M., 19 , Origins of Analytical Philosophy,
• Miller, A., Philosophy of Language, Fundamentals of Philosophy, Series Editor Shand John.

Nuchelmans, G., Taalfilosofie. Een Inleiding.

On Quine

• L.E. Hahn & P. Schilpp (eds.), 1986, The Philosophy of W.V. Quine, La Salle.

Easy and instructive literature (biographies)

• Duffy, Bruce, 1987; The world as I found it (Nl. vertaling, 1990, De wereld die ik aantrof, Amsterdam, Wereldbibliotheek).

Ludwig Wittgenstein and the Tractatus


Secondary literature

1996.

**Course content-related study coaching**

Intensive coaching by lecturer

**Evaluation methods**

end-of-term evaluation

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

Oral examination

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

Open book examination, oral examination

**Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation**

Participation

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

*Assessment moment*

Periodical: exam (70%), non periodical (30%)

*Assessment form*

Oral examination, with a written preparation, for the first part. On the exam, questions on insight will be asked. The exam is open book. For the second part: contribution to the collective discussion.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

70 % periodical, 30 % non-periodical

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy

(Approved)