Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2016-2017

Sexual and Relational Ethics (A003403)

Course

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019
Claes, Tom
LW01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019
Master of Arts in Moral Sciences 5 A
Research Master of Arts in Philosophy 5 A
Master of Arts in Philosophy 5 A
Exchange Programme Moral Sciences 5 A
Exchange Programme Philosophy and Moral Sciences 5 A
Exchange Programme Philosophy 5 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Ethics, Sexuality

Position of the course
This course will enable students to get acquainted with the conceptual, factual, historical and ethical aspects of sexuality.

Contents
The course includes, but is not limited to, the following topics:
• Conceptual analysis: In this introductory module we address the question: "what is (meant with) sex?" Overview of problems involved and some main option for filling out the content of primary and secondary sexual concepts.
• Factual/Historical issues concerning sexuality: an extensive review of the main shifts concerning the regulation and experience of the sexual domain, including: the influence of religious, theological and medical regulations; the influence of the rise of the bourgeois society from the 18th century onwards (case study: masturbation); perspectives on history of sexuality: history of mentalities, civilisation theory of N. Elias, M. Foucault, etc.; the Sexual Revolution' and beyond: Enlightened Pessimism and Postmodern Panics (Focus on 20th century);

• The relevance of the scientific study of sexuality for a sexual ethics (evolutionary theory, evolutionary psychology, psychology & sociology of sex, cultural anthropology etc.)
• Ethics: a review of the main players in the field of sexual ethics, including, e.g., Aristotle, Plato, Augustine, Aquinas, Schopenhauer, Kant, extensive focus on recent authors like Nagel, Scruton, Soble, Rubin, McElroy...
• Possible case studies: masturbation, pornography, feminism and sexuality, gender performance, sexual harrasment, 'perversions,' the role of consent, sexuality and power, cybersex, BDSM ...

Initial competences
Understanding the basic concepts, central approaches, theoretical frameworks and important developments in ethics.

(course size)

(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019
A (semester 2) English lecture 30.0 h seminar 15.0 h

Teaching languages

Keywords

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• The relevance of the scientific study of sexuality for a sexual ethics (evolutionary theory, evolutionary psychology, psychology & sociology of sex, cultural anthropology etc.)
• Ethics: a review of the main players in the field of sexual ethics, including, e.g., Aristotle, Plato, Augustine, Aquinas, Schopenhauer, Kant, extensive focus on recent authors like Nagel, Scruton, Soble, Rubin, McElroy...
• Possible case studies: masturbation, pornography, feminism and sexuality, gender performance, sexual harassment, 'perversions,' the role of consent, sexuality and power, cybersex, BDSM ...

Initial competences
Understanding the basic concepts, central approaches, theoretical frameworks and important developments in ethics.

(Approved)
Final competences
   1 Having a good grip of the intricacies of the debates surrounding sexual ethics, and the cultural history of sexuality.
   2 Knowing and understanding the basic concepts particular to the analysis of sexuality.
   3 Critically reflecting on and evaluating diverse perspectives on human sexuality.
   4 Having knowledge of some of the most important theories and theorists of sexuality (like, e.g., Aristotle, Plato, Augustinus, Aquinas, Schopenhauer, Kant, and more recent authors like Nagel, Scruton, Soble, Rubin, McElroy and others).
   5 To be able to critically reflect on and evaluate diverse case studies like, e.g., masturbation, pornography, feminism and sexuality, gender, sexual harassment, 'perversions', 'consent', sexuality and power, cybersex, sex and technology (the selected case studies may differ from year to year)

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, seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods
   Lectures and discussion

Learning materials and price
   Syllabus (texts, powerpoints). Cost: approx. 10 EUR.

References
   See Minerva.

Course content-related study coaching
   Discussion during lectures, appointment with lecturer.

Evaluation methods
   end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
   Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
   Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
   not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods
   Written exam with 4 to 5 open questions

Calculation of the examination mark
   The written exam counts for 100% of the final score.

Facilities for Working Students
   Facilities:
   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 during an appointment during office hours

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

(Approved)