Contemporary Ethics: Anglo-American Tradition (A000695)

Valid as from the academic year 2017-2018

Course Specifications

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 2019-2020

A (semester 1) Dutch lecture 37.5 h

Self-reliant study activities 7.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

Claes, Tom LW01 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

| Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology | 5 | A |
| Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences | 5 | A |
| Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy | 5 | A |
| Exchange Programme Moral Sciences | 5 | A |
| Exchange Programme Philosophy | 5 | A |

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Contemporary ethics, Anglo-American tradition

Position of the course

This course introduces students to the most important viewpoints, discussions, theories and philosophers in twentieth century Anglo-American ethics. The students will be able to master the basic terminology and argumentation strategies from this field of ethics.

Contents

1 Introduction: Ethics and Metaethics
2 Intuitionism: G.E. Moore, H.A. Prichard, D. Ross
3 Early Non-Cognitivism: A.J. Ayer, Ch.L. Stevenson, R.M. Hare
4 The Moral Judgement and the Fact-Value Distinction: K. Baier, S. Toulmin, J. Searle, P. Geach, Ph. Foot, I. Murdoch, G.E.M. Anscombe, ...
5 The Emergence of Virtue Ethics: Ph. Foot, A. MacIntyre, ...
6 The 'Error theory' and Fictionalism: J. Mackie, R. Joyce, ...
7 Norm-Expressivism and Quasi-Realism: A. Gibbard, S. Blackburn
8 Recent Cognitivisms: C. Wright's, J. McDowell, G. Harman, N. Sturgeon, R. Boyd, P. Railton, ...

Initial competences

- Basic but good knowledge of the main debates, viewpoints and theories in western ethics.
- To have successfully completed the courses 'Philosophical Ethics: Systematics' 'History of Contemporary Philosophy' and 'Philosophical Methodology I' or to have acquired the necessary competences by other means.

Final competences

1 Having a basic knowledge of the most important strategies of analytical philosophy.
2 Having an insight into the dynamics of the most important 20th century debates of the Anglo-American meta-ethics.
3 Having an insight into the main issues and theories of Anglo-American Meta-ethics
4 Mastering the basic terms and strategies of the modern Anglo-american meta-ethics and philosophical ethics.

(Approved)
5 Reflecting critically on the relation meta-ethics and normative ethics (philosophical ethics).
6 Being able to cogently elaborate and report a meta-ethical argument.

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, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods
• Lectures
• Guided independent work: preparing a paper and discussion thereof.

Learning materials and price
Coursereader, estimated cost: 15 EUR

References
A selection of original textfragments will become available via Minerva.

Course content-related study coaching
By lecturer.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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
Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods
Periodical evaluation: Written exam with 4 to 5 open questions.
Non-Periodical evaluation: evaluation of the process and result of paper assignment.
When one doesn't partake in one or more parts of the evaluation, or fails a part of the evaluation, it is impossible to pass the course. If the combined score would be more than 10/20, the final result will be the highest non-passing grade, or reduced to 9/20.
If a student does not pass the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered by means of a compensatory activity between the first and second exam period.

Calculation of the examination mark
Periodical (written exam): 80%; non-periodical evaluation (paper & discussion): 20%.

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

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