Ancient and Medieval Philosophy Texts (A003409)

Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course Specifications

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Praet, Danny

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in History 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy 5 A
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature) 5 A
Exchange Programme Philosophy 5 A

Teaching languages
Dutch

Keywords
Philosophical primary sources from Antiquity, Middle Ages and Renaissance, textual analysis, interpretation

Position of the course
This basic course will help students become acquainted with the problems of interpreting philosophical texts from Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, (read in translation); students will be confronted with a number of different modern interpretations of ancient, medieval and renaissance texts.

Contents
To read and comment a number of thematically linked philosophical texts (in translation) from ancient, medieval and renaissance philosophers, together with a number of modern interpretations.

Initial competences
Preferably: To have successfully completed the courses History of ancient philosophy and History of mediaeval philosophy or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences
1 To be able to read and interpret philosophical works written by ancient, medieval and renaissance authors, taking into account the historical context they were written in as well as the philosophical tradition they belong to.
2 To be able to analyse and summarise the argumentation of the texts discussed.
3 To be able to trace the theme of the anthology diachronically over several works.
4 To be able to discuss modern interpretations critically.
5 To be able to express personal philosophical reflections on the discussed texts.
6 To learn to read ancient philosophical texts independently, as well as recent scientific literature, to learn to write a paper about these texts, and to learn to give an oral presentation.

Conditions for credit contract

(Proposal)
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods
Seminar, self-reliant study activities.

Extra information on the teaching methods
Seminar: critical and interactive analysis of the texts; the students will be asked to prepare sections of the texts in advance, to ask questions and to introduce problems for discussions.

Learning materials and price
A corpus of ancient and medieval philosophical texts (excerpts) in translation and a corpus of secondary texts: articles and chapters from recent books regarding the primary texts and the central theme, available for free on Minerva.
Theme this year: work of Heraclitus: we will read the fragments and the reactions thereon / interpretations there of from ancient philosophy (Plato, Aristotle, Diogenes Laertius) to modern philosophy, with interpretations by Hegel, Nietzsche e.a.

References
References and broader philosophical context in the reader, see also
The reading material will be made available in pdf on Minerva.

Course content-related study coaching
By the lecturer before and after each lecture, during weekly contact hours (Thursday 14-16 h).

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, written examination, assignment.

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Assignment.

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
Examination during the second examination period is possible.

Extra information on the examination methods
Assessment moment
Periodical: exam (70%).
Assessment form
Written exam with an oral examination possible for minores-students.
The assignment is about an individual topic chosen by the students but related to the theme of the anthology, and should use at least two scientific publications related to an ancient or medieval text, not part of the anthology.
Essay 30 %

Calculation of the examination mark
70 % periodical
30 % non-periodical: essay.

Facilities for Working Students
Facilities:
1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; a task can imposed in substitution after discussion with the lecturer.
2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3 Feedback can be given by telephone or 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.

(Proposal)