# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2020-2021

## Epistemology: Capita Selecta (A000143)

Due to Covid 19, the education and evaluation methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

**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 2020-2021**

| A (semester 1) | Dutch | Gent | lecture | 40.0 h |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | group work | 5.0 h |

**Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021**

| Van Dyck, Maarten | LW01 | lecturer-in-charge |
|---|---|---|
| Simons, Massimiliano | LW01 | co-lecturer |

| Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021 | crdts | offering |
|---|---|---|
| Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject Philosophy) | 5 | A |
| Master of Arts in Philosophy | 5 | A |

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Foucault, knowledge, power, truth

**Position of the course**

In this advanced course we investigate how Foucault's strongly historicised thinking about knowledge, truth and power compares to more traditional epistemological questions.

**Contents**

We read some key texts from Foucault's oeuvre, discuss its internal evolution, and look at its relation to some of Foucault's direct sources of inspiration (structuralism, Bachelard, Canguilhem, Nietzsche) and to a broader kantian-inspired philosophical tradition.
We mainly discuss epistemological questions raised by his analyses: wat could it mean that there are "discursive formations" that constrain what is speakable and thinkable in determine periods of time? What is the status of a "will to knowledge" or "will to truth"? If power and knowledge cannot be disentangled, what does this imply for the ideal of "free knowledge"?
We also disscuss a number of contemporary authors who treat related themes (Latour, Serres, ...)

**Initial competences**

- Having a basic knowledge of the history of philosophy.
- Being able to read philosophical texts in French.

**Final competences**

1 Having insight in the most important concepts within Foucault's thinking.
2 Being able to correctly asses Foucault's relation to philosophical tradition.
3 Being able to critically reflect on Foucault's work.
4 Being able to use Foucault's ideas in a reflection on contemporary phenomena.
5 Being able to develop a philosophical perspective on the relation between knowledge and its (changing) social and political context.

**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

Guided self-study, group work, lecture, online lecture

Learning materials and price

References

Course content-related study coaching

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Oral examination, assignment

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

Oral examination, assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation

Possibilities of retake  in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark

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 and after office hours

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