



Master's programme Philosophy (1 year)

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen (Wys) - M Philosophy (1j) - 2015-2016

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MA Philosophy 1 year: Track Analytic Philosophy

In period 4, students follow two out of three MA tutorials in Ethics, Philosophy of Science or Epistemology (total of 12 EC).

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Beyond The Great Divide: Styles of Philosophy	Periode 3	6.0	W_MA_BEY
Epistemology (Analytical Philosophy)	Periode 4	6.0	W_MA_AEP
Epistemology and Philosophy of Science	Periode 2	6.0	W_MA_EPSC
Ethics	Periode 2	6.0	W_MA_EAP
Ethics (Analytical Philosophy) Tutorial	Periode 4	6.0	W_MA_AET
History of Analytical Philosophy I: Frege, Wittgenstein, Carnap	Periode 1	6.0	W_MA_APH1
History of Analytical Philosophy II: Hume, Kant, Rawls	Periode 1	6.0	W_MA_APH2
Philosophy of Science (Analytical Philosophy)	Periode 4	6.0	W_MA_APS
Thesis Analytical Philosophy	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	W_MA_ATH
Thesis Seminar	Periode 5	0.0	W_MA_THS

MA Philosophy 1 year: Track Continental Philosophy

In period 4, students follow two out of three MA tutorials in Ethics, Metaphysics or Social Philosophy (total of 12 EC).

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Beyond The Great Divide: Styles of Philosophy	Periode 3	6.0	W_MA_BEY
Ethics (Continental Philosophy) Tutorial	Periode 4	6.0	W_MA_CET
History of Continental Philosophy I: Hegel and Neoplatonism	Periode 1	6.0	W_MA_CH1
History of Continental Philosophy II: Husserl, Heidegger, Derrida	Periode 1	6.0	W_MA_CH2
Metaphysics (Continental Philosophy) Tutorial	Periode 4	6.0	W_MA_CME
Phenomenology	Periode 2	6.0	W_MA_CPH

Social Philosophy (Continental Philosophy) Tutorial	Periode 4	6.0	W_MA_CSP
Thesis Continental Philosophy	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	W_MA_CTH
Thesis Seminar	Periode 5	0.0	W_MA_THS

MA Philosophy 1 year: Track Christian Studies of Science and Society

It's only possible to finish this track in 2015-2016.

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Master Thesis Philosophy	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	W_MA1TH

MA Philosophy 1 year: Track Philosophy of Management and Organizations

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Approaches to Business Ethics	Periode 1	6.0	W_PMO_BUETH
Epistemological Aspects of Management and Organization	Periode 4	6.0	W_PMO_EPISAS
History of Analytical Philosophy II: Hume, Kant, Rawls	Periode 1	6.0	W_MA_APH2
Master Thesis Philosophy	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	W_MA1TH
Philosophy of Management and Organization	Periode 4	6.0	W_PMO_PMO
Responsibility, Technology and Organizations	Periode 2	6.0	W_PMO_RTO
Seminar Ma Philosophy of Management and Organization	Periode 3	6.0	W_MASE_MO
Social Philosophy	Periode 2	6.0	W_MA_CSO
Thesis Seminar	Periode 5	0.0	W_MA_THS

Approaches to Business Ethics

Vakcode	W_PMO_BUETH (164018)
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen

Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

- Knowledge of and being able to reflect on the main themes of 'analytic' Business Ethics.
- Knowledge of and being able to reflect on perspectives on Business Ethics that are developed in 'continental' philosophy.
- Being able to reflect on (the development of) some basic ethical concepts that underpin both approaches of Business Ethics.

Inhoud vak

Mainstream points of view on themes of ('analytical') Business Ethics will be discussed. These themes comprise: corporate agency, stakeholder theory, organizational culture, moral decision making, justice, leadership, reward and compensation, marketing corporate social responsibility, codes and standards, sustainability and globalization. Clear normative perspectives are formulated on important issues that have sometimes crystallized in moral codes of conduct for businessmen. It can be argued, however, that in the perspective of 'continental philosophy' undiscussed assumptions seem to inform 'analytical' Business Ethics. These assumptions regard for instance the notion of the 'homo-economicus', the meaning of science, political neutrality, the concept of norm and the significance of procedural reasoning's in ethics. It is at this point that some 'continental' philosophers are invoked with the aim to introduce different perspectives on the just mentioned themes of Business Ethics. Insights of Nietzsche, Bergson, Heidegger, Levinas etc. As these philosophers are rather heterogeneous, fragmentation seems to be a necessary consequence. Nevertheless there seems to be a (more or less) common inspiration here: their attention is in many cases focused on questions about a 'good life', and how to live it. For that reason this course is overarched (or: underpinned) by a critical reflection on (the development of) some pivotal concepts of Business Ethics that also inform ethical dimensions of this 'good life'. This reflection will be based on the first part of Charles Taylor's book: Sources of the Self. Besides the 'good life' itself, 'self-preservation', the 'egoism/altruism' dichotomy, 'needs', 'interests', 'justice', the 'good' will be discussed in connection with 'individuality', 'collectivity' and 'happiness'. In this perspective we will also pay attention to the three main perspectives on ethics that are operative in Business Ethics, i.e. consequentialism (usually utilitarianism), deontology (usually Kant), and virtue ethics (usually Aristotle).

Onderwijsvorm

Combination of lectures, presentations by students; discussions.

Toetsvorm

A final paper (about 3000words) written by students (see for information and standards: A. Halsema and M. Willemsen: 'Filosofische vaardigheden. Richtlijnen voor het schrijven van een filosofische tekst en voor spreken in het openbaar', par 3. (see: http://www.wijsbegeerte.vu.nl/nl/Images/Syllabus%20Filosofische%20vaardigheden_tcm58-106291.pdf).

Literatuur

1) Business Ethics and Continental Philosophy. Ed. by Mollie Painter-Morland and René ten Bos. Cambridge University Press, 2011 (handbook)

2) Taylor, Charles. Sources of the self : the making of the modern identity (1989); Part 1: Identity and the Good. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Doelgroep

Students Master Philosophy (1 year), track PMO.

Beyond The Great Divide: Styles of Philosophy

Vakcode	W_MA_BEY ()
Periode	Periode 3
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. R.W. Munk
Examinator	prof. dr. R.W. Munk
Docent(en)	prof. dr. R.W. Munk, prof. dr. W. Goris, dr. J.J.W. Wieland, prof. dr. M.V.B.P.M. van Hees
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	600

Doel vak

The student acquires: knowledge of styles in doing philosophy; understanding of possible relations between styles and contents; knowledge of possible convergences of styles.

Inhoud vak

Week 1 On styles of doing philosophy, by Martin van Hees and Reinier Munk

Week 2 Reflections on Historicity and systematicity, by Wouter Goris and Jeroen de Ridder

Week 3 Convergences of styles, by Wouter Goris, Jeroen de Ridder, Martin van Hees, Reinier Munk.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures.

Toetsvorm

Written exam.

Literatuur

See course manual.

Vereiste voorkennis

Courses in MA-program, periodes 1 and 2.

Doelgroep

MA-students in Philosophy.

Epistemological Aspects of Management and Organization

Vakcode	W_PMO_EPISAS ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0

Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

Understanding the role of knowledge in the internal and external managing of the processes and relations of a corporation or organization.

Learning to assess the way corporations and organizations acquire 'eyes to see' social and political developments that are relevant for the strategy and accountability-structures of corporations and organizations: the rise of network society, globalization, consumer-society, 'Erlebnis-Gesellschaft', risk-society, etc.

To acquire a clear sense of the differences between types of knowledge that are relevant for the operation of organizations: scientific knowledge, intuitive knowledge, professional knowledge, craftsmanship, creativity.

Inhoud vak

One way of looking at a corporation or organization is to see it as a 'hub', both a producer and receiver of knowledge: knowledge about the external world, knowledge about its internal processes. In this course we look at how a corporation or organization acquires and processes knowledge. Is this adequate for its purposes? What is the role of numbers and statistics in this knowledge, what is the role of intuition, what of human experience? Today people speak of 'spreadsheet-terrorism' and the overwhelming supremacy of 'planning and control' over craftsmanship, trust and social capital.

The knowledge that is acquired has as its goal to make the organization fit for dealing with its environment. So in this course we explore as well what are major trends in today's society, as analysed by various social and political theorists: the network society, globalization, consumer-society, 'Erlebnis-Gesellschaft', risk-society, etc

In this course we explore how a resourceful, strategically fit organization manages its knowledge of its social and political environment as well as its knowledge about its internal processes.

How are results measured? What is part of its accountability-structures? What is included and excluded in the knowledge about the internal and external world?

How does a corporation or organization develop 'eyes to see'?

Onderwijsvorm

Mixture of lectures and interactive reflection with students.

Toetsvorm

Written exam; paper with case-study.

Literatuur

To be announced (see Bb or contact course coordinator)

Probably part of the literature will be: A. Henriques, Corporate Truth . Earthscan, London, 2007.

Doelgroep

MA-philosophy students.

Epistemology (Analytical Philosophy)

Vakcode	W_MA_AEP ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. R. van Woudenberg
Examinator	prof. dr. R. van Woudenberg
Docent(en)	prof. dr. R. van Woudenberg
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Epistemology and Philosophy of Science

Vakcode	W_MA_EPSC ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. H.W. de Regt
Examinator	prof. dr. H.W. de Regt
Docent(en)	prof. dr. H.W. de Regt, D.J. Ludwig
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Students will acquire knowledge of different types of values; insight into relations between science and value; knowledge of and insight into the debates about the question of the value-freedom of science; and insight into debates about the objectivity of science. In addition, they will develop a well-argued own view concerning these issues.

Inhoud vak

What is the role of values in scientific practice? What should this role ideally be? These questions have generated much debate among philosophers of science. The traditional view is that scientific theories should be value-free: values should be avoided in the evaluation and justification of scientific claims. The intuition behind this view is that scientific research influenced by (for example) moral or ideological values is biased and cannot produce objective results. A look at scientific practice, however, shows that science is permeated with various types of values. The question is which kind of values are conducive to scientific progress and which ones are detrimental to it. Can we distinguish between 'epistemic' and 'non-epistemic' values? Which values threaten the objectivity of science? How can scientists protect their integrity in situations where society places demands on them (e.g. when they have to advise on policy)? These issues will be discussed on the basis of recent articles that deal with various aspects of the debate, and classic papers in the field.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures, presentations, reading assignments and discussions. In class we will discuss literature that you should have studied in advance. Every student will have to give an oral presentation.

Toetsvorm

Active participation in class (10%), presentation (10%), writing assignment (20%), final paper of 4000-5000 words (60%).

Literatuur

Readings will be announced and made available via Blackboard.

Vereiste voorkennis

Introductory course in Philosophy of Science on BA level.

Doelgroep

MA students Philosophy.

Ethics

Vakcode	W_MA_EAP ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. B.R. Ferguson
Examinator	dr. B.R. Ferguson
Docent(en)	prof. dr. M.V.B.P.M. van Hees, dr. B.R. Ferguson
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

(1) Detailed knowledge of different concepts and understandings of responsibility; (2) Insight into key philosophical controversies concerning responsibility; (3) The ability to develop and defend one's own position in these philosophical debates; (4) the ability to apply theories and ideas concerning responsibility to practical moral problems.

Inhoud vak

This ethics course will focus on the topic of the nature and value of moral responsibility. On the basis of Kant's Critique of Practical Reason, the course starts with a discussion of theories in which responsibility refers to moral duties (prospective responsibility). Next we move to discussions about responsibility for actions we performed in the past (retrospective responsibility). Here the focus is on the relation between responsibility, free will, and autonomy. In the last part of the course, the students will apply the notion of responsibility in a particular context. For this purpose, each student will choose a topic on one of the following themes: responsibility in health care, responsibility and rights, responsibility and the environment, the justification of moral responsibility.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures and seminars.

Toetsvorm

Essay (50% of final grade) and exam (50%).

Literatuur

(1) Immanuel Kant. Critique of Practical Reason. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, or German original; (2) Reader with a selection of further articles and chapters - to be published on Blackboard; (3) Small selection of additional texts based on the student's essay topic.

Doelgroep

Students MA Philosophy (Analytic Track); Students MA Philosophy, Bioethics and Health.

Ethics (Analytical Philosophy) Tutorial

Vakcode	W_MA_AET ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. M.V.B.P.M. van Hees
Examinator	prof. dr. M.V.B.P.M. van Hees
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Ethics (Continental Philosophy) Tutorial

Vakcode	W_MA_CET ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. M.V.B.P.M. van Hees
Examinator	prof. dr. M.V.B.P.M. van Hees
Docent(en)	prof. dr. M.V.B.P.M. van Hees
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

History of Analytical Philosophy I: Frege, Wittgenstein, Carnap

Vakcode	W_MA_APH1 ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. M.R.M. ter Hark
Examinator	prof. dr. M.R.M. ter Hark

Docent(en)	prof. dr. M.R.M. ter Hark
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

History of Analytical Philosophy II: Hume, Kant, Rawls

Vakcode	W_MA_APH2 ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. B.R. Ferguson
Examinator	dr. B.R. Ferguson
Docent(en)	dr. B.R. Ferguson
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

(1) Detailed knowledge of the status and theories of moral and political philosophy within the tradition of analytic philosophy (2) The ability to develop and defend one's own position in the areas of analytic moral and political philosophy.

Inhoud vak

This course charts the development of moral and political philosophy as practiced within the analytic tradition. The two thirds of the course begin with a survey of the moral and political theories of Hume and Kant before examining how these theories influenced the philosophy of John Rawls in the last third of the course.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures and seminars.

Toetsvorm

Essay (50% of final grade) and exam (50%).

Literatuur

(1) Rawls, J. [edited by Herman, B.] (2000). "Lectures on the history of moral philosophy." Harvard University Press. (2) Reader with a selection of further articles and chapters - to be published on Blackboard; (3) Small selection of additional texts based on the student's essay topic.

Doelgroep

Students MA Philosophy (Analytic Track).

History of Continental Philosophy I: Hegel and Neoplatonism

Vakcode	W_MA_CH1 ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels

Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. W. Goris
Examinator	prof. dr. W. Goris
Docent(en)	dr. C.H. Krijnen, prof. dr. W. Goris
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

Analysis of metaphysical texts; systematic evaluation of historically diverse positions; academic judgement.

Inhoud vak

Hegel corroborated various characteristics of the Neoplatonic philosophy of Plotinus and Proclus. Yet, the Neoplatonic philosophy of the absolute One has a methodical profile distinct from Hegel's speculative idealism. Hegel's philosophy of an all-encompassing and all-pervasive unity is distinctly modern, as it is based on the principle of subjectivity. According to Hegel, the Neoplatonic paradigm of philosophy is inadequate to fully comprehend the absolute foundation of the whole of reality. From the point of view of Neoplatonic philosophy (as witnessed by the later Fichte and Schelling), however, Hegel's speculative idealism ignores the hidden ground of consciousness. In this course, historical as well as systematic aspects of Hegel's transformation of Neoplatonism shall be addressed.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures and seminars.

Toetsvorm

Paper and oral exam.

Literatuur

See Blackboard.

Vereiste voorkennis

Course history of philosophy.

Doelgroep

Students of continental philosophy.

Overige informatie

Attendance is obligatory.

History of Continental Philosophy II: Husserl, Heidegger, Derrida

Vakcode	W_MA_CH2 ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. R.W. Munk
Examinator	prof. dr. R.W. Munk
Docent(en)	prof. dr. R.W. Munk, dr. C.H. Krijnen

Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Knowledge, insight, evaluate and judge information.

Inhoud vak

Intensive study of texts by Husserl, Heidegger, and Derrida.

Onderwijsvorm

Lecture course.

Toetsvorm

Written exams.

Literatuur

See course manual.

Vereiste voorkennis

BA Philosophy.

Doelgroep

MA-students Philosophy.

Master Thesis Philosophy

Vakcode	W_MA1TH ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)
Credits	18.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. R.W. Munk
Examinator	dr. J.M. Halsema
Niveau	600

Metaphysics (Continental Philosophy) Tutorial

Vakcode	W_MA_CME ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. W. Goris
Examinator	prof. dr. W. Goris
Docent(en)	prof. dr. W. Goris
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Phenomenology

Vakcode	W_MA_CPH ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. J.M. Halsema
Examinator	dr. J.M. Halsema
Docent(en)	dr. A.C.M. Roothaan, dr. J.M. Halsema
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

Students gain knowledge of and insight into: 1. The historical trajectory of phenomenology in the 20th century; 2. The most recent developments in phenomenology in relation to analytical philosophy of mind, feminist and race theory. Students develop skills 1. To critically read and analyze philosophical texts; 2. To prepare discussions and chair meetings; 3. To develop an (original) position in relation to a theme or philosopher that they discuss; 4. They improve their writing skills (on basis of feedback).

Inhoud vak

In this course, the development of the phenomenological movement from the late Husserl until today is studied. The course starts with Edmund Husserl's *Die Krisis der europäischen Wissenschaften und die transzendente Phänomenologie* (1936), in which he fleshes out the notion of life-world. Then it follows the route phenomenology takes in France, where - strongly influenced by Martin Heidegger – Jean-Paul Sartre and Maurice Merleau-Ponty develop existential phenomenology as a practical mode of phenomenology, and where Emmanuel Levinas – criticizing Heidegger - works out his ethical phenomenology. The 1950's and 1960's show a growing insight into the relevance of language, under the influence of Saussurian structuralism: Merleau-Ponty, for instance, considers the phenomenology of language while relating it to Saussure. The relevance of language – and therewith of history and culture – inspires Ricoeur to take a turn from phenomenology to hermeneutics. Nowadays different fields can be detected in which phenomenology shows its significance. In the course we will concentrate upon 1. The relation between phenomenology and analytical philosophy of mind, in which the notion of subjectivity and selfhood are central (Shaun Gallagher and Dan Zahavi); 2. Feminist phenomenology that aims to think through embodiment and gender (Iris Marion Young, Linda Fisher, Sara Heinämaa); 3. Race theory which aims to (re)appropriate the alienated experience of black existence and thereby criticizes the racism of white Euro-American philosophy (Gordon Lewis, Jean-Paul Sartre, Frantz Fanon).

Onderwijsvorm

Tutorial.

Toetsvorm

1. Preparation of one of the texts and chairing the meeting in which the text is discussed (10%); 2. Two written reviews of the texts of max. 1000 words (30%); 3. Paper of max. 4000 words about a subject discussed in the course (60%). Students need to attend 80% of the classes for them to reach the educational objectives of this course.

Literatuur

Texts by among others Husserl, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Levinas, Ricoeur, Gallagher & Zahavi, Young, Fisher, Fanon. The reading list and course guide will be published on blackboard two weeks in advance of the course.

Vereiste voorkennis

Bachelor Philosophy.

Doelgroep

Master students Philosophy.

Philosophy of Management and Organization

Vakcode	W_PMO_PMO ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Examinator	dr. G.J. Buijs
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

Knowledge of and being able to connect some basic philosophical questions with the main themes, concepts and theories of Management and Organization and their practices.

Inhoud vak

The course will consist of three parts.

- 1) Introduction of main epistemological and ontological questions in the context of the 'revolution' or transgression from classical philosophy (rationality), i.e. ancient and mediaeval philosophy to (early) modern philosophy. This introduction will be based on the perspective of possible meanings of the concept of the 'good life'.
- 2) An overview of possible relations between Philosophy and Management and Organization. This will be exemplified by some examples and/or elaborations.
 - a. An overview of the development of basic tensions within theories and practices of Management and Organization.
 - b. Some dialectical transgressions within theories (and practices) of/within organizations.
 - c. Is the relation between Philosophy and (theories of) Organizations a difficult one?
 - d. Different philosophical perspectives on organizations will be introduced in the context of the concept(s) of the 'good life'.
- 3) Reflections on a dialectic of philosophy and organization. The relations of problematic of the dynamics of organizations to the so called revolutionary development of philosophy seems to be a rather undeveloped field of research within philosophy. In this part main issues of part 1 and 2 will be connected, with the intention to make relevant distinctions between reasonable and unreasonable dimension within mainstream theories of management and organization and their practices.

Toetsvorm

A final paper (about 3000 words) written by students (see for information and standards: A. Halsema and M. Willemsen: 'Filosofische vaardigheden. Richtlijnen voor het schrijven van een filosofische tekst en voor spreken in het openbaar', par 3. (see:

http://www.wijsbegeerte.vu.nl/nl/Images/Syllabus%20Filosofische%20vaardigheden_tcm58-106291.pdf).

Literatuur

- 1) Selected texts from Modernity and Plato, A. Schmitt, Camden House, 2012. (The original German Texts: Schmitt, A., 2008, Die Moderne und Platon. Zwei Grundformen europäischer Rationalität. Metzler, Stuttgart, Weimar.
- 2) General philosophical questions about the phenomenon of Management and Organization. This part consists of selected and adapted writings by H. van Diest.
- 3) Selected texts from: Toward a Dialectic of Philosophy and Organization, E. Gogol, Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, The Netherlands, 2012.

Philosophy of Science (Analytical Philosophy)

Vakcode	W_MA_APS ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. H.W. de Regt
Examinator	prof. dr. H.W. de Regt
Docent(en)	prof. dr. H.W. de Regt
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Responsibility, Technology and Organizations

Vakcode	W_PMO_RTO ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Lesmethode(n)	Werkcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

Frequently we reflect on questions about the accountability of organizations and their management. Without the operation of organizations modern society is not conceivable; to a large extent they determine the quality of life of people living in it.

In this course, we explore the meaning of an 'embedded' concept of responsibility of management and organizations in the context of

technology and society as a whole.

Inhoud vak

The capacity of responsibility is defined as the capacity to respond appropriately to given situations. However, without the notion of freedom it seems not possible to make sense of responsible actions. To deepen the insight in the problem of freedom, at least five concepts or 'ideal types' of freedom will be distinguished that will be used as analytical tools for further analysis and reflections.

The relation between the functioning of organizations and freedom resp. responsibility seems not to be clear at all. This will become clear by studying basic types of organizations: in many cases they are considered as a kind of 'machine' or 'system'. The conclusion must be that 'technological thinking' is not restricted to the production and functioning of material products or processes but is also 'applied' in the process of organizing. For this reason there seems to be a tendency to exclude freedom (and responsibility) within organizations in so far as ('organizational') technological thinking implies the reduction of chance, unpredictability and uncertainty, concepts that can be connected with those of freedom and responsibility (cf. 'whistle blowing').

However, from a historical point of view it can be argued that the 'concrete' development of freedom - in a broad sense - was interconnected with scientific and technological developments, at least in the context of the Enlightenment and the rising 'modernity'. Some texts will be studied in which this connection becomes manifest (e.g. Bacon, Comte).

More or less at the same time critical voices arose that are still to be heard and express a concern about the consequences of this development for human's freedom and dignity: (e.g.) Rousseau, Romantics, Bergson, Jonas, Heidegger, Ellul, Mumford, Illich. Some elements of this concern will be discussed in connection with a reflection on some basics of scientific and technological rationality (A. Schmitt).

It seems plausible that some of these problems can be related to the problem of freedom and responsibility within and around organizations. On the one side organizations can be considered as the product of human freedom, on the other side they seem to tie it up that same freedom. (cf. the 'Iron cage' of Weber). Some texts will be studied to make this clear. (e.g. Marcuse, Foucault).

However, it is also plausible that even in an technological or bureaucratically approach to organizations there seems - by necessity- to be space for freedom and responsibility, not only on the 'top' of them but also in the 'basis'. This will be argued by using some thoughts of Feenberg and van Diest.

This course will be concluded by a reflection on questions about (organisational) responsibility related to organizational rationality (Foucault, van Diest, Willmott).

The whole course will be accompanied by a critical reflection on basic concepts or ideas which are constitutive for the different arguments used. We will do this by introducing some critical/philological and philosophical reflections on these concepts in the context of 'ancient' (classical) and 'modern' philosophy, as is presented by A. Schmitt. By doing this I tried to present material to be better able to discuss and criticize points of views of authors that are presented in this course.

Onderwijsvorm

Combination of lectures; presentations by students; discussions.

Toetsvorm

A final paper (about 3000 words) written by students (see for information and standards: A. Halsema and M. Willemsen: 'Filosofische vaardigheden. Richtlijnen voor het schrijven van een filosofische tekst en voor spreken in het openbaar', par 3. (see: http://www.wijsbegeerte.vu.nl/nl/Images/Syllabus%20Filosofische%20vaardigheden_tcm58-106291.pdf).

Literatuur

Will be published on Blackboard.

Doelgroep

Students Master Philosophy (1 year), track PMO.

Seminar Ma Philosophy of Management and Organization

Vakcode	W_MASE_MO ()
Periode	Periode 3
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. C.H. Krijnen
Examinator	dr. C.H. Krijnen
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkcollege
Niveau	600

Doel vak

Fundamental understanding of social reality.

Fundamental understanding of the ontology of organization.

Knowledge of contemporary efforts to comprehend what an organization is and the philosophical problems these encounter.

Knowledge of a reason and freedom-based approach to establish the concept of organization.

Knowledge of the relevance of major traditions of modern philosophy for developing a contemporary social ontology of organization.

Academic skills in philosophical reading, analysing, evaluating, discussing, and presenting philosophical and non-philosophical texts on organization.

Inhoud vak

We will study a recent book on the ontology of organization including some other texts that give additional insight in the contemporary debate on organizational ontology. Hence, the course deals with the ontological dimension of organization. It tries to answer the question: 'what is an organization'? Every organization theory presupposes a basic concept of organization. What is this concept and how can we account for it?

Contemporary attempts within the social sciences in general and organization studies in particular will be discussed in order to carve out their essential features and shortcomings; an alternative approach for developing an organizational ontology on the basis of reason and freedom will be scrutinized. This approach methodologically stems from the tradition of German idealist philosophy, especially the Kantian and Hegelian tradition, but it concerns an up-dated version for dealing with organizational ontology.

Onderwijsvorm

Interactive reflection with students on material at issue.

Toetsvorm

- assignments for each meeting during the course
- an oral presentation of one the texts
- final paper

Grade: Short papers: 10 %, oral presentation: 20 %, final paper: 70 %.

Literatuur

Ch. Krijnen, *The Very Idea of Organization. Social Ontology Today: Kantian and Hegelian Reconsiderations* (Brill: Leiden, Boston 2015). Each chapter of this book will be supplemented with background texts:

R. Scott, *Organizations: Rational, Natural, and Open Systems*, 5th ed. 2003 (selection).

R.P. Horstmann: G.W.F. Hegel, in: *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. London/New York, Vol. 4, 259-280.

A. Staiti, *The Neo-Kantians on the meaning and status of philosophy*, in: *New Approaches to Neo-Kantianism*, N. de Warren/A. Staiti (ed.), Cambridge 2015, 19-38.

M. Reed, 'Reflections on the 'Realist Turn' in Organization and Management Studies' in: *Journal of Management Studies* 42

A. Honneth, *The Pathologies of Individual Freedom: Hegel's Social Theory* 2010, 1-28 (or the German original: *Leiden an Unbestimmtheit. Eine Reaktualisierung der Hegelschen Rechtsphilosophie* (2001).

Vereiste voorkennis

See admission criteria for Ma Phil of M&O.

Aanbevolen voorkennis

See admission criteria for Ma Phil of M&O.

Overige informatie

Student attention obligatory. Who misses more than 2 meetings cannot complete the course as the course objectives can be realized only via intensive interaction during the meetings.

Social Philosophy

Vakcode	W_MA_CSO ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	prof. dr. G.J. Buijs
Examinator	prof. dr. G.J. Buijs
Docent(en)	dr. A.M. Verbrugge, prof. dr. G.J. Buijs
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

*Being able to read rich philosophical texts (mainly from the continental tradition) based on systematic questions

*Being able to develop argumentatively elements of a viable social ontology

* Exploring how some of the insights gained can contribute to the public debate about the future of our globalizing and localizing world.

Inhoud vak

In this course we examine basic ontologies that are foundational for evaluating the functioning of societies. We distinguish between four different dimensions or 'axes of evaluation': the ecological, the bodily, the social and the spiritual.

The basic assumption underlying this course is that societies organize these four different axes and the relations and priority-order between them in very different ways.

This may lead to very different types of societies that substantially differ as well in their capacities to meet challenges emerging from our contemporary globalizing and localizing world, in which the search for 'identity' seems an urgent undercurrent.

Authors that are going to be discussed will be, among others, Martin Heidegger, Oswald Spengler, Max Scheler, Herman Dooyeweerd and Peter Sloterdijk.

Onderwijsvorm

Mixture of lectures and interactive reflection and discussion with students.

Toetsvorm

Oral exam based on written reports.

Literatuur

To be announced.

Doelgroep

MA-philosophy students.

Social Philosophy (Continental Philosophy) Tutorial

Vakcode	W_MA_CSP ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Coördinator	dr. J.M. Halsema
Examinator	dr. J.M. Halsema
Docent(en)	dr. A.M. Verbrugge, dr. J.M. Halsema, prof. dr. G.J. Buijs
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Thesis Analytical Philosophy

Vakcode	W_MA_ATH ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)
Credits	18.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen

Niveau	500
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Thesis Continental Philosophy

Vakcode	W_MA_CTH ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)
Credits	18.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Niveau	500

Thesis Seminar

Vakcode	W_MA_THS ()
Periode	Periode 5
Credits	0.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

Doel vak

Students will acquire and practice relevant research, writing, organizational, and time management skills to complete their MA Thesis successfully.

Inhoud vak

This course is all about helping students on their way towards completing their MA Thesis successfully and in time. We will look at all the relevant aspects of the research and writing process, from coming up with a suitable topic and research question to finding and studying relevant literature, writing up your findings and ideas, structuring the thesis, keeping yourself motivated, and interacting successfully with your thesis supervisor.

In addition to some relevant instruction on these topics by the teaching staff, the seminar will involve a lot of writing exercises, discussion, and peer feedback. Ideally, you will have a fully worked out and feasible plan for your thesis by the end of the seminar and possibly even a draft of the opening chapters of your thesis.

Onderwijsvorm

Seminars.

Toetsvorm

None.

Vereiste voorkennis

See entry requirements for MA Thesis.

Doelgroep

MA Philosophy & MA PMO.

Overige informatie

Attendance and active participation are obligatory.