



Bachelor's courses Faculty of Humanities

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2018-2019

Continental Philosophy

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| Course code | W_BA_COEN () |
| Period | Period 5 |
| Credits | 6.0 |
| Language of tuition | English |
| Faculty | Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen |
| Coordinator | dr. J.M. Halsema |
| Examinator | dr. J.M. Halsema |
| Teaching staff | dr. J.M. Halsema |
| Teaching method(s) | Lecture |
| Level | 100 |

Course objective

The student:

- acquires knowledge of the most important philosophical traditions, ideas and philosophers in 20th century continental philosophy;
- learns about the continuities and discontinuities with earlier periods (modern philosophy);
- practices the ability to read and analyze primary philosophical texts;
- practices the skills of philosophical argumentation and writing;
- practices presentation skills.

Course content

Two main lines of thought characterize twentieth-century continental philosophy: the decentering of the subject and the linguistic turn. Both take shape in different ways in the most important philosophical traditions of this period: phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, critical theory, poststructuralism and philosophy of difference. In this course, these traditions will be discussed, and texts will be read of the most important philosophers of this age:

1. Phenomenology: Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty
2. Existentialism: Sartre
3. Hermeneutics: Gadamer
4. Critical theory / Frankfurter Schule: Adorno
5. Poststructuralism: Foucault, Butler
6. Deconstruction and philosophy of difference: Derrida, Deleuze.

Form of tuition

Seminars (2-3 hours per week) to introduce the tradition; text reading seminars (two times a week, 4-6 hours) to discuss the primary texts. Attending the text reading seminars is mandatory.

Type of assessment

- 3 short papers (800-1000 words) about the primary texts (10 % per paper)
- presentation on a continental philosopher or theme that is not discussed in the course (10 %)
- final exam with open essay questions (60 %)

Course reading

The primary texts will be made available at Canvas, and a list of secondary literature.

Recommended background knowledge

Modern philosophy