



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2022-2023

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

History of Philosophy: Capita Selecta

Course Code	W_BA_CASE
Credits	6.00
Period	P5
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculteit der Geesteswetenschappen
Course Coordinator	dr. D. Rusu
Examiner	dr. D. Rusu
Teaching Staff	dr. D. Rusu
Teaching method(s)	Seminar

Course Objective

In order to successfully complete this course, the student needs to

1. acquire knowledge of several ancient and medieval theories of nature;
2. gain insight into the ontological and metaphysical presuppositions underlying those theories of nature.

After completion of this course, students will have further developed their skills

3. of textual analysis;
4. of reflecting on and comparing the theories expounded in philosophical texts (in translation);
5. of evaluating secondary literature on those texts;
6. of presenting their own questions and analyses in writing;
7. and in discussion.

Course Content

This elective is about ancient and medieval theories of nature and the ontological and metaphysical presuppositions underlying them. We will discuss questions regarding the fundamental reality of nature, the relation between the natural and the artificial, between nature and civilization, between natural praeter-natural and supernatural, as well as questions regarding human nature and living in accordance with nature.

We will start in classical Athens and end in the fifteenth century. This class relates directly to past and future research of several members of the department.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

This course will be a combination of interactive lecture and discussion seminar.

Method of Assessment

- One small assignment for each seminar, preparing a discussion of passages (pass/fail, assessing learning objectives 1-3, 7). If you fail more than 20% of the small seminar assignments, you will be given (an) extra assignment(s).
- Two essays (50% each, assessing learning objectives 1-6). Both essays have to be sufficient.

Entry Requirements

To enrol in this course, you must have completed introductory courses on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. If you want to take the course, but do not meet the requirements, get in touch with the coordinator of the course.

Literature

Literature will consist of primary texts in translation, and some secondary readings. Details to be announced through Canvas.

Additional Information Target Audience

This course is primarily intended for Philosophy/Filosofie bachelor students. Other interested students may enrol as well, but please contact the teacher before doing so.

Recommended background knowledge

General knowledge of the history of western philosophy is recommended, knowledge of the history of ancient and medieval philosophy is required.

Students who do not meet these requirements but are interested in joining, should contact the teacher to discuss preliminary reading.