



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

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](#).

Great Minds I

Course Code	W_BA_MND1
Credits	6
Period	P1
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	dr. L.W. Lee
Examiner	prof. dr. M. Martijn
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. M. Martijn, dr. L.W. Lee
Teaching method(s)	Lecture

Course Objective

The objective of this course is to acquire critical understanding of some of the highlights of the ancient and medieval philosophy time periods. After this course you will have

1. knowledge of some of key thinkers from philosophy in the ancient and medieval philosophy time periods;
2. understanding of the main questions this philosophy seeks to answer.
After this course you are able to
3. interpret philosophical texts from the ancient and medieval philosophy time periods;
4. use and apply some of the core concepts of philosophy;
5. outline some strands of development in the ancient and medieval philosophy time periods in your own words.

Course Content

This course largely focuses on Western philosophy from 6th century BCE to 15th century CE. It introduces you to Ancient and Medieval philosophy, by studying the theories of a number of well-known thinkers: Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas, while also attending to the theories of those who are less well-known, such as Mengzi [Mencius], Laozi, Ibn Rushd [Averroes], and Christine de Pizan.

We will focus on the relation between world, knowledge and goodness (i.e., metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics).

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Interactive lecture; seminar; text analysis

Method of Assessment

Weekly assignments (pass/fail, assessment of learning objective 3, 4); final exam (100%, assessment of learning objectives 1, 2, 4, 5). The assignments need to be sufficient (i.e. 'pass'), the final exam determines the grade.

Literature

A selection of primary sources, to be distributed through Canvas.

Additional Information Target Audience

Minor students Philosophy