



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](#).

History of Analytic Philosophy

Course Code	W_BA_LOG
Credits	6
Period	P1
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. C. Dutilh Novaes
Examiner	prof. dr. C. Dutilh Novaes
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. C. Dutilh Novaes
Teaching method(s)	Lecture

Course Objective

The student:

1. obtains knowledge of the major historical developments in analytic philosophy in the first half of the 20th century
2. can describe the major contributions of the most important philosophers in this tradition
3. can read primary texts in analytic philosophy
4. understands and is able to use some of the logical formalism used in philosophical analysis

Course Content

Since the beginning of the 20th century, a new tradition in philosophy has emerged, which became known as analytic philosophy. This tradition is variously characterized by its conceptual rigor, tight argumentation, logical formalization, appeals to common sense, and (as the name suggests) attention for analysis. We will study the early development of this tradition in the first half of the 20th century. A historical overview of the major developments will be given, and we will read primary texts by Frege, Russell, Moore, Wittgenstein, and Stebbing.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

The course consists in discussions of some primary texts as well as discussions of chapters from the main book by M. Beaney. Students work in groups on the textual material, and then discuss their results with other groups and the lecturer. There are also short expository lectures to introduce the text to be read in the next class.

Method of Assessment

Exam (75% of the final grade, assessment of learning objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4)
Class participation (25% of the final grade, assessment of learning objectives 1 and 3)

Literature

Beaney, M. (2017), Analytic Philosophy - A Very Short Introduction.

Oxford, Oxford University Press.
Selected primary texts (will be made available on Canvas)

Additional Information Target Audience

The course is for 2nd year Bachelor students in Philosophy.
The course can be followed by other students, but some knowledge of formal logic is required and some rudimentary knowledge of epistemology, philosophy of science, and metaphysics.

Explanation Canvas

A longer course description will be posted on canvas.

Recommended background knowledge

Logic