



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](#).

Continental Philosophy

Course Code	W_BA_COEN
Credits	6
Period	P5
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	dr. J.M. Halsema
Examiner	dr. J.M. Halsema
Teaching Staff	dr. J.M. Halsema
Teaching method(s)	Lecture

Course Objective

The student learns:

1. to recognize and interpret the most important philosophical schools, ideas, and concepts in 20th century continental philosophy;
2. to identify and explain the continuities and discontinuities with earlier philosophical periods (especially modern philosophy) and with analytical philosophy;
3. to read, analyze, and interpret primary philosophical texts;
4. to evaluate a philosophical concept or idea, compare it to other ideas and develop a position towards it;
5. to argue in a philosophical manner, orally and in writing.

Course Content

This course introduces into European philosophy of the 20th century, and aims at a better understanding of the most important themes and topics in this tradition. At large it is characterized by two lines of thought: the decentering of the subject and the linguistic turn. These developments are traceable in the most important philosophical schools of this period. Another important topic is the Enlightenment: many philosophers either relate to this historical period in the European history, or develop a novel notion of what it entails. A third characteristic is critique: most philosophers either develop a strong critique of our age or of the philosophical tradition, or both.

In the course, you will be introduced into these ideas and will read and discuss texts of important philosophers of the 20th and 21st century.

1. The Masters of Suspicion (turn 19th/20th century): Nietzsche
2. Phenomenology: Heidegger
3. Existentialism: Beauvoir
4. Black existentialism: Fanon
5. Hermeneutics: Gadamer
6. Critical theory/Frankfurter Schule: Horkheimer and Adorno
7. Philosophy of difference: Deleuze
8. Post-structuralism: Foucault
9. Critique of black reason: Mbembe

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lectures to introduce each school or movement; text reading seminars to discuss the primary texts. Attending the text reading seminars is mandatory (80%).

Method of Assessment

- Assignments about the primary texts, that you prepare in small groups. You can register for the groups yourself (see People, Groups). The assignments will be graded as complete/incomplete. You will need to hand in at least 4 (Assessment of learning objectives 3, 5)

Students of the Dutch track, can answer the questions in Dutch. But it is allowed to form assignment groups with students of the two tracks.

- short essay of 1200 words (20%) (Assessment of learning objective 3, 4, 5) Students of the Dutch track, can write the paper in Dutch.

- Written exam: essay questions. You need to obtain at least 5,5 points for the exam in order to pass the course (80%) (Assessment of learning objective 1, 2, 3)

Literature

- David West, 'Continental Philosophy. An Introduction.' 2nd edition.

Cambridge and Malden: Polity, 2010 (or later reprint)

- Primary texts of Nietzsche, Heidegger, Beauvoir, Fanon, Gadamer, Adorno and Horkheimer, Foucault, Deleuze, Mbembe. The primary texts will be made available through Canvas.

Additional Information Target Audience

BA1-students Philosophy

Explanation Canvas

Please check Canvas for details about the program, assignments, essay and exam. A program will be posted two weeks before the start of the course.

Recommended background knowledge

Modern philosophy