



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 World Philosophies

Course Code	G_BATRSCC103
Credits	6
Period	P2
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Religion and Theology
Course Coordinator	dr. F. Quatrini
Examiner	dr. F. Quatrini
Teaching Staff	dr. F. Quatrini
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course Objective

After finishing this course, the student:

- is familiar with the history of the Western philosophical tradition and, to a lesser degree, of Indian, Chinese and Southern philosophical traditions. Aim: historical knowledge.
- has acquired knowledges of the historical mutual interconnectivity between Western and non-Western philosophies. Aim: dialogical knowledge.
- has learned to reflect on what philosophy is, on the boundaries between philosophy and theology, and on Western and non-Western approaches to philosophy. Aim: hermeneutical insight.
- has acquired insight into the inevitable dialogical and comparative nature of all philosophizing. Aim: dialogical insight.
- has learned to navigate the paradigmatic differences of various world philosophies. Aim: dialogical skills.
- has learned to reflect on their own hermeneutical presuppositions with regard to epistemology (the nature of knowledge) and ontology (the nature of the world). Aim: hermeneutical skills.
- has learned to actively reflect on the possibility of a more inclusive global 'philosophy of the future'. Aim: philosophical skills.

Course Content

This course familiarizes students with the history of philosophical thinking around the world. It offers basic access and in-depth insight into Western (European, American and Arabic), Asian (Indian and Tibetan), East Asian (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) and Southern (African and South American) philosophies and worldviews. After a brief introduction to the discipline of philosophy, its contested demarcation from theology and religion, and the various approaches to it in the West, India, China and the South, the course will follow the chronological history of the Western philosophical tradition (including Islamic philosophy), with dialogical excursions to capita selecta taken from Indian, Chinese and Southern traditions. These dialogical excursions will show that our familiar story of the Western philosophical tradition (beginning with Greek rationalism, continuing through the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, and culminating in modern secular rationalism and science can be replaced by different stories, for example one that leads from the Eastern-influenced Dionysian irrationalism of the Greeks and the Eastern nature of early Christian Gnosticism, through the occult Renaissance, via the Oriental Renaissance of the nineteenth century to current New Age philosophies based on Indian, Chinese, and Southern indigenous philosophies.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Seminars (80% attendance is mandatory)

Method of Assessment

Take home exam (80%)

Written assignments (20%)

Literature

Mandatory literature:

- Baggini, Julian. *How the World Thinks: A Global History of Philosophy*. London: Granta, 2018.

- Tarnas, Richard. *The Passion of the Western Mind*. New York, Vintage, 2010.

Explanation Canvas

The course manual with detailed information will be made available via Canvas.