



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](#).

Identity and Emancipation-Practical Ethics in Pastoral Care

Course Code	G_BATRSAL051
Credits	6
Period	P3
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Religion and Theology
Course Coordinator	dr. M.M. van Hoogstraten
Examiner	dr. M.M. van Hoogstraten
Teaching Staff	dr. M.M. van Hoogstraten
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture

Course Objective

After finishing this course, the student:

- is able to analyze communication as a rhetorical practice;
- has learned to distinguish between violent and non-violent forms of (verbal) communication;
- is able to recognize the rhetorical violence in Christian discourses;
- is able to analyze the language used in a situation of conflict and learns to propose alternative strategies that make communication more nonviolent;
- has defined the relation between rhetorical effects and seductive emotions;
- is willing to exercise to express his or her feelings of anger in a nonviolent way.

Course Content

RHETORICAL VIOLENCE AND NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION
Few people are aware of the potential violent character of our language use. From the early beginnings of Western culture, philosophers and religious thinkers warned against the risk that a too effective rhetorics implied for the truthfulness of our worldviews. Philosophy and theology seemed to entre in conflict with rhetorics, as do show Plato's debates with the sophists, or Paul's debate with his opponents. At the same time, without expression and language truth would remain silent and non-effective. Hence the double-bind: without rhetorics no truth-communication; with rhetorics quasi-unavoidable loss of truth-purity. In practical theology this asks for a permanent awareness of the potential violation of truth by communicating it. In this course, we will discuss possible strategies of dealing with violent communication, both in ordinary life and in faith-communication.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lecturing and workshops. Obligatory attendance

Method of Assessment

Paper

Literature

Obligatory Literature:

- Plato, Gorgias, in: Plato: Lysis. Symposium. Gorgias. (Loeb Classical Library No. 166). Cambridge (Mass): Harvard University Press, 1925
- Marshall B. Rosenberg, Nonviolent Communication, 3rd Edition, Puddle Dancer Press, 2015. EAN 978189200581

Recommended literature:

- Lies Brussee-van der Zee and Annelies Klinefelter-Koopmans, Mediation in pastoral care, Elkhart: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 2012. ISBN 0936273461.
- Jean-François Lyotard, The Differend: Phrases in Dispute. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1991

Additional Information Target Audience

The module is part of the larger Minor Peace Theology and Anabaptist-Mennonite Traditions. Though it can be followed as an individual module, following the module within the larger framework of the minor is recommended.

Explanation Canvas

In this co-teach module, philosophical and theological reflexivity will help to clarify issues of practical and socio-psychological urgency.