UCLouvain

lfilo1220

2019

Philosophy of science

In view of the health context linked to the spread of the coronavirus, the methods of organisation and evaluation of the learning units could be adapted in different situations; these possible new methods have been - or will be - communicated by the teachers to the students.

5 credits	45.0 h	Q2

Teacher(s)	Sartenaer Olivier ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	The aim of this course is to provide students with a first introduction to contemporary philosophy of science. There will be special focus on discovering the convergences, but also the differences, between the philosophy of material sciences, the philosophy of life sciences and the philosophy of the humanities and social science. The problem of the link between techno-science and society, including the important issue of ecology, will also be examined. The multi-disciplinary topics covered in Philosophy of Science will include the epistemic status of scientific theories and models, the dynamics of science, the range and limits of scientific knowledge, the theory of scientific explanation, reductionism, the role of objectives, naturalism and the issue of objectivity or axiological neutrality. The multi-disciplinary topics covered in science-society will include modernity-religion and science-expertise-ecology.
Aims	1 By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the main issues and authors in the philosophy of science. They should be able to present a summary of an issue with clarity and precision in speaking or in writing. They will both be able to construct a rigorous argument in favour of the points of view covered and to adopt critical distance from them. They will be able to find their way around the literature of philosophy of science. - - - - *The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".*
Evaluation methods	**Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information in this section is particularly likely to change.** Written exam.
Teaching methods	**Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information in this section is particularly likely to change.** Teaching will mainly be made ex cathedra. Systematic comparisons between approaches and views will be the course's privileged method. Given the number of authors and approaches, students will be expected to prepare themselves through preliminary readings. Their participation to discussions in the classroom will also be important.
Content	The aim of this course is to provide students with a first introduction to contemporary philosophy of science, by surveying the main current topics in metaphysics and epistemology of science. Some of these topics include the relationship between philosophy and the sciences, scientific realism, the demarcation between science and pseudoscience, the historical development of science, the possible modes of relation between scientific fields, causation, laws of nature and reductionism. Some of the core philosophical issues of sub-disciplines like philosophy of physics, chemistry, biology or cognitive science will also be addressed.
Bibliography	Les différentes ressources bibliographiques seront postées en accès restreint sur la page Moodle du cours.
Faculty or entity in charge	EFIL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)

Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Aims
Certificat universitaire en philosophie (fondements)	FILO9CE	5		
Master [120] in Public Administration	ADPU2M	5		
Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics	PPE1BA	5		
Bachelor in Philosophy	FILO1BA	5		
Minor in Philosophy	LISP100I	5		