bhddr1160

2025

Philosophy and moral philosophy

The version you're consulting is not final. This course description may change. The final version will be published on 1st June.

10.00 credits	90.0 h	Q1 and Q2

Language :	French
Place of the course	Bruxelles Saint-Louis
Learning outcomes	**At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :** The course "Philosophy and moral philosophy" aims at giving law and political science students theoretical benchmarks and keys to comprehension in order to enable them to find their way in the history of philosophy, understand its evolution and major issues and find the reflexive, conceptual and critical resources necessary to question not only some of the big challenges of our times, but also certain principles and notions they are being taught in other courses (freedom, justice, State, subject, responsibility, democracy, power, truth etc.) Four skills are being honed during classes and will be evaluated during the exam: 1) Mastery of concept and capacity to define the major philosophical notions 2) Comparison of the different types of philosophical thought through the analysis of the divergence and/or convergence of their respective arguments 3) Textual commentary allowing the interpretation of textual elements in the light of the notions and theory taught in class 4) Critical distantiation from the taught doctrines on the basis of a short essay developing one of the following points a) internal criticism of an author seen in class b) external criticism or c) practical application of a philosophical doctrine seen in class
Evaluation methods	Written examination.
Teaching methods	Lecture.
Content	This course will, throughout the year, familiarize students with the apparent "strangeness" of philosophical questioning, with a dual objective. On one hand, it aims to make them aware that the thoughts of philosophers address questions inherent to every individual and have contributed to shaping our ways of thinking; we will strive to highlight how the "problems" faced by past philosophers, as well as the concepts developed to address them, can help us construct our own answers to the "problems" we encounter today. Thus, by focusing on the structure of argumentation (the problems it tackles, its conceptual assumptions, its logical mechanisms), this course is designed to train students in rigorous problematization and argumentation. On the other hand, this course will develop a general culture and skills particularly relevant for future lawyers and political scientists: through the analysis and comparison of classical and contemporary philosophers, our focus on philosophical texts as such will train students in careful reading and rigorous interpretation. This course falls under general philosophy but is specifically intended for students in law and political science: it addresses issues of direct interest to legal and political scholars. To enable everyone to immediately experience the vitality of philosophy, the course will involve reflecting on the moral and political nature of human beings to examine the foundational concepts of legal and political thought: action, responsibility, freedom, autonomy, the good, the bad, justice, the purposes of politics, as well as the relationship between truth and justice... To achieve this, we will undertake a selective journey through the history of philosophy, emphasizing some essential classical authors such as Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, and Kant, while also engaging with more contemporary references that inform today's political and legal reflection (Philippa Foot, Simone de Beauvoir…). Each time, we will take the time to read certain texts by these authors and analyze their specific logic.
Bibliography	Des notes de cours seront fournies, à travers différents types de supports (syllabus, ouvrage de référence, diaporamas déposés sur le Moodle, etc.).
Other infos	For students in the Certificate in Philosophy and Citizenship Education, this course is worth 15 credits.
Faculty or entity in charge	DRTB

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Law (shift schedule)	DRDB1BA	10		🔍
Bachelor in Political Sciences (shift schedule)	SPDB1BA	10		🔍