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5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q1

Teacher(s)	Guay Alexandre ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	/
Main themes	<p>This course is intended as an introduction to the different nature-related approaches to philosophy. The broad historical perspective adopted will examine the influences of both the history of philosophy and the history of science. The course will highlight the similarities, but also the differences, of the ontology of nature offered by the philosophy of material science, the philosophy of life sciences and the philosophy of the mind.</p> <p>The hermeneutic approach will also be covered. Part of the course will involve a schematic analysis of the significance of nature for humans, thereby linking this reflection on nature with philosophical anthropology within the context of issues such as modern-day ecology or the relationship between nature and subjectivity.</p>
Learning outcomes	<p><b>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</b></p> <p>The aim of the course is to introduce students to metaphysical, historical and analytical reflection on the concept of nature, taking into consideration the major achievements of the philosophical tradition and those of modern science. By the end of the course, students must be familiar with the main themes and the key philosophers who developed thought on nature. They will be able to produce a clear, brief and accurate oral or written presentation on a topic. They will be able to take a critical distance from the ideas discussed and argue rigorously in favour of them. They will be able to navigate the primary and secondary philosophy of nature literature.</p> <p>1</p>
Evaluation methods	<p>First session: Written exam (80%), partial (20%).</p> <p>Second session: written exam</p>
Teaching methods	<p>The course will be based on lectures. The preferred method will be the systematic comparison of approaches and positions. In addition, students will be expected to prepare for classes through reading. Class participation will therefore be essential.</p>
Content	<p>The course will be divided into 8 unequal parts. In each part, the normative consequences implied by the ontological position under discussion will be highlighted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Brief discussion of the relationship between philosophy of nature, the sciences, and other branches of philosophy.</li> <li>2. Plato's philosophy of nature.</li> <li>3. Aristotle's philosophy of nature.</li> <li>4. Descartes' mechanistic philosophy of nature.</li> <li>5. Nomological philosophy of nature (Newton, du Châtelet, Leibniz).</li> <li>6. Nature as a product of history (Darwin, Mayr, Lewontin).</li> <li>7. Philosophy of nature and environmental ethics.</li> </ol> <p><b>Selected topics among the following:</b> natural causality, probability and determinism, space-time, nature and symmetry, natural individual, emergence.</p>
Inline resources	<p>Texts and links on the Moodle site.</p>
Bibliography	<p>Voir site Moodle.</p>
Faculty or entity in charge	<p>EFIL</p>

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures: German, Dutch and English	GERM1BA	5		
Bachelor in Ancient and Modern Languages and Literatures	LAFR1BA	5		
Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics	PPE1BA	5		
Minor : Issues of Transition and Sustainable Development	MINDD	5		
Bachelor in Philosophy	FILO1BA	5		
Bachelor in French and Romance Languages and Literatures : General	ROM1BA	5		
Bachelor in Modern Languages and Literatures : General	ROGE1BA	5		