



Comparative Philosophy (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0308

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

Educational goals

After completing the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Describe central philosophical problems that arise in the comparison of different philosophical systems, particularly those from different cultural contexts.
- Critically discuss different methods of philosophical comparison and show a thorough understanding of central hermeneutical challenges. Moreover, the students are expected to be able to apply appropriate methods for different forms of philosophical comparisons.
- Describe and critically discuss various uses of the concept of philosophy, in particular the notions of *eudaimonia* and wisdom in comparison to modern approaches.
- Have a general understanding of the main tenets of the major non-western philosophies, in particular those of China and India. Display some knowledge of other non-western philosophies.
- Have a more in-depth understanding of one particular non-western thinker.

Course content

This course introduces both the methodological problem of how to compare different philosophical systems, and a number of the major non-western philosophies, primarily the Indian and Chinese. Other lesser known traditions will also be discussed, for instance the philosophies of Persia and Africa. Comparing ideas between cultures poses central philosophical questions, such as ontology, dialectics, the historical situatedness of ideas, hermeneutics, relativism and commensurability. The potential of comparisons is to see reality with new eyes, and the course encourages reverse readings where new questions are posed to Western philosophies. Primary readings in translation constitutes a major part of the course. These readings will be organized systematically under the headings of ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and the philosophy of mind.

Teaching and examination

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures and discussion-based seminars. The seminars will center on discussions of primary readings in translation. These must be prepared by the students before each class.

The examination has two parts:

1. Seminar participation examined in two parts: a) active participation in class, including exegesis of ascribed texts before each class, b) an oral presentation of one of the primary readings for the seminars.
2. A term paper of 4,000 words on a self-chosen topic. This involves a systematic philosophical analysis of a non-western philosophical text (10-12 pages, line-spacing 1,5, Times New Roman, 12 pts).

Each part contributes 50% to the final grade.

Bibliography

Bonevac, Daniel and Stephen Phillips. *Introduction to World Philosophy: A Multicultural Reader*. Oxford: OUP, 2009.

Connoly, Tim. *Doing Philosophy Comparatively*. London: Bloomsbury, 2015.

Garfield, J. L. and W. Edelglass. Eds. *The Oxford Handbook of World Philosophy*. Oxford: OUP, 2014.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

Finalised 2019-02-26

Valid as 2019-03-15