Technology and the Human (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle
Discipline: PHILOSOPHY
Course ID: 0332

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction to Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits), and two introductory courses in History of Philosophy (15 ECTS credits), Ethics (7,5 hp) and preferably either Philosophical Anthropology (7,5 ECTS) or Theological Anthropology (7,5 ECTS). 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:

- Display a general knowledge of the history of philosophical discussions on technology.
- Discuss the main trends in contemporary philosophy of technology in an informed manner.
- Discuss the "empirical turn" in the philosophy of technology.
- Work with primary philosophical material within the subject.
- Relate the emergence of new technologies to various representations of the human condition.
- Weigh different options and argue philosophically for ethical decisions with regards to the use of new technologies.

Course content

The powerful presence of technology in contemporary society raises significant philosophical issues with regards to the human condition. In this course such issues will be discussed from the angle of the humanities and social sciences, with the perspective of "Science and Technology Studies" (STS). Humans have always expressed and extended themselves through various technologies. New technologies have the potential to re-shape human perceptions of the world and themselves. In that sense they are related to ideals, and therefore to ethical questions. The possibility of a virtue ethical approach to new technologies will be discussed, particularly with regards to human enhancement.

Teaching and examination

The teaching is conducted by lectures and seminars. The course will be examined through exercises written every week. Each exercise answers a given problem with a text of approximately 2 pages (800-1000 words 12 pts, times new roman). The exercises will be assessed according to the following parameters: a) understanding of the texts discussed, b) clarity and coherence of

argumentation, c) ability to reflect critically on the issues raised by the texts. The final grade is calculated from the grades on the individual exercises, where all exercises have equal weight.

Bibliography

Dusek, *Philosophy of Technology*, Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2006. 210 p.

Schatzberg, Eric. *Technology: Critical History of a Concept*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018. 236 p.

Sismondo, Sergio. *An Introduction to Science and Technology Studies*. 2 ed. Hoboken: Wiley Blackwell, 2009. 204 p.

Valor, Shannon. *Technology and the Virtues: A Philosophical Guide to a Future Worth Wanting*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. 250 p.

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

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