



Universiteit Leiden

# Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2021

Programme-specific section:

## Master's Programme: Philosophy (60 EC)

These Course and Examination Regulations (henceforth OER) have been drawn up in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act [ *Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*; WHW] (henceforth the Act) and the following Leiden University regulations:

- the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document;
- the Academic Calendar;
- the Regulations for Student Registration, Tuition Fees and Examination Fees;
- the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.

Pursuant to Article 7.14 of the Act, the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the Course and Examination Regulations and considers, for the purpose of monitoring and adjusting the study load, how much time it takes students to comply. In accordance with Article 9.18 of the Act, the departmental committee is assigned the task of annually assessing the implementation of the OER.

These Course and Examination Regulations consist of two sections:

- a faculty section that is the same for all programmes and
- a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme, what is known as the programme-specific section of the Course and Examination Regulations.

In the text below the relevant articles will refer to this section.

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## Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

### Article 2.1 Objectives of the programme

The programme has the following objectives:

1. to enable students to acquire academic knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the field of philosophy;
2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:
  - independent academic reasoning and conduct,
  - the ability to analyse complex problems,
  - the ability to clearly report academic results, both in writing and orally;
3. to prepare students for an academic career and further education;
4. to prepare students for a career outside academia.

### Article 2.2 Specialisations

The programme has the following specialisations:

- Global and Comparative Philosophy
- Modern European Philosophy
- Moral and Political Philosophy
- Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and the Economy
- Philosophy of Knowledge

### Article 2.3 Learning outcomes

Graduates of the programme have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

1. Knowledge and understanding
  - a. knowledge and understanding in the field of systematic philosophy and its history, as well as of developments in contemporary philosophy, surpassing that of the bachelor's programme, that form the basis of the independent development and application of original ideas, understanding and analyses;
  - b. knowledge and understanding of recent developments per specialisation:
    - *Global and Comparative Philosophy*  
knowledge and understanding of one or more non-Western philosophical traditions, their history, and their reception and its intercultural dimensions, surpassing that of the bachelor's specialisation Global and Comparative Perspectives;
    - *Modern European Philosophy*  
knowledge and understanding of the history of Western philosophy, in particular the German and French traditions of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, and their reception, as well as contemporary developments in this field, surpassing that of the bachelor's specialisation Filosofie van mens, techniek en cultuur [Philosophy of Mind, Culture and Technology];
    - *Moral and Political Philosophy*  
knowledge and understanding of theoretical ethics, metaethics, methods of normative philosophy and the history of moral and political philosophy, as well as contemporary developments in this field, surpassing that of the bachelor's specialisation Ethiek en politieke filosofie [Ethics and Political Philosophy];

- *Philosophy of Knowledge*  
knowledge and understanding of theoretical philosophy, in particular, epistemology, metaphysics, logic, and the philosophy of science, their history, as well as contemporary developments in this field, surpassing that of the bachelor's specialisation Theoretische filosofie [Theoretical Philosophy];
  - *Philosophical Perspective on Politics and the Economy*  
knowledge and understanding of the normative and systematic philosophical foundations of political and economic systems, theories and debates within applied philosophy and contemporary political philosophy.
2. Applying knowledge and understanding  
the ability, on the basis of the knowledge and understanding of philosophy they have acquired, to contribute to current discussions in philosophy and related areas.
  3. Judgement
    - a. the ability, on the basis of the sound knowledge of philosophy acquired during the programme, to analyse complex philosophical problems;
    - b. the ability to judge the reliability of different kinds of sources;
    - c. the ability to form judgements based on different kinds of sources;
    - d. a realistic view of the reliability of their conclusions;
    - e. the ability to integrate different approaches to philosophical questions and compare these with each other.
  4. Communication
    - a. the ability to give a clear presentation of philosophical problems, ideas, theories, interpretations and arguments, for specialist audiences as well as for a general audience;
    - b. the ability to write philosophical papers at an academic level.
  5. Learning skills  
the possession of learning skills that allow graduates to continue their study of philosophy and to formulate a research proposal for a PhD.

#### Article 2.5 **Study load**

The programme has a study load of 60 credits.

#### Article 2.8 **Language of instruction**

2.8.1. Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction<sup>1</sup> the language in which the instruction is given and in which the examinations and final examinations are held is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language of instruction and examination in the programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.3.

2.8.2. Contrary to Article 2.8.1, in individual cases the Board of Examiners can permit the student to write the final thesis in another language, in accordance with the Guideline on Language Policy.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Guide on Language Policy](#)

## Chapter 3 Curriculum

### Article 3.1 Compulsory components

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components worth a total study load of 60 credits. These compulsory components include the set components from which a student is obliged to choose.

## Chapter 4 Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education

### Article 4.2 Obligatory sequence

4.2.1 Not applicable.

### Article 4.3 Forms of examination

4.3.6 The final part of the completion and assessment of the MA thesis is the oral MA examination, which consists of an interview with the candidate on the subject of the thesis conducted by a graduation committee, appointed by the Board of Examiners. The candidate's performance during the interview will be taken into account for the determination of the final grade of the thesis.

## Chapter 5 Admission to the Programme

### Article 5.2 Admission to the programme

5.2.1 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) of the Act holders of one of the following degrees or persons who have successfully completed the following prescribed pre-masters/bridging programme may be admitted to the programme and one of its specialisations:

- a. a bachelor's degree from a Dutch research university (in the specialisation) in:

| <i>Specialisation master</i>                           | <i>Admission on the basis of bachelor programme, with specialisation</i> |
|--|--|
| Global and Comparative Philosophy                      | Philosophy: Global and Comparative Perspectives                          |
| Modern European Philosophy                             | Philosophy   |
| Moral and Political Philosophy                         | Philosophy   |
| Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and the Economy | Philosophy   |
| Philosophy of Knowledge                                | Philosophy   |

- b. To be considered as holding a degree sufficiently related to the one specified in 5.2.1a, applicants must meet the following requirements:
- A bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, and
  - possess the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix B of the Faculty section of these regulations, and
  - the ability to formulate a clear philosophical research question, to develop and formulate a critical view on that question, and to support this view by means of argument and analysis, to be determined on the basis of a writing sample.

In addition, the applicant must also meet the following specific requirements depending on the chosen specialisation:

- *Global and Comparative Philosophy*  
relevant knowledge of intercultural traditions in philosophy and their history, equivalent to the knowledge obtained in the pre-master's programme for Global and Comparative Philosophy, as specified in Article 5.4; or  
a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from a Dutch research university, provided the student has completed courses in the field of global and comparative philosophy with a total course load of at least 30 EC;
- *Modern European Philosophy*  
relevant knowledge of the history of Western philosophy, especially the German and French traditions of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, equivalent to the knowledge obtained in the pre-master's programme for Modern European Philosophy, as specified in Article 5.4;
- *Moral and Political Philosophy*  
relevant knowledge of ethics and political philosophy and their history, equivalent to the knowledge obtained in the pre-master's programme for Moral and Political Philosophy, as specified in Article 5.4;
- *Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and the Economy*  
relevant knowledge of contemporary ethics, political philosophy and/or political theory, equivalent to the knowledge obtained in the pre-master's programme for Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and the Economy, as specified in Article 5.4;
- *Philosophy of Knowledge*  
relevant knowledge of theoretical philosophy and its history, equivalent to the knowledge obtained in the pre-master's programme for Philosophy of Knowledge, as specified in Article 5.4.

Applicants with a bachelor's degree in International Studies or in Liberal Arts and Sciences: Global Challenges from a Dutch research university and who completed courses in philosophy with a total course load of at least 35 credits are admitted to *Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and the Economy* on the basis of Article 5.3. Depending on the contents of the completed courses, the Board of Admissions will determine an additional catch-up programme as referred to in Article 5.3.3.

Applicants who are in possession of a bachelor's degree in Political Science or in Public Administration from a Dutch research university are admitted to *Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and the Economy* on the basis of Article 5.3. The Board of Admissions has determined a catch-up programme, as referred to in Article 5.3.3, for 15 ECTS credits of deficiencies, consisting of the following bachelor's courses: Philosophical Skills I (5 EC), Ethics (5 EC), and Political Philosophy (5 EC).

- c. a bachelor's degree and additionally having passed the prescribed pre-master's/bridging programme pursuant to article 5.4.1. The prescribed pre-masters/bridging programme must be completed within the nominal duration plus one semester (in case of a pre-master's/bridging programme of 30 EC or less) or plus one study year (in case of a pre-master's/bridging programme of more than 30 EC).

It is not possible to apply to this programme with a degree from a Dutch University of Applied Sciences (hbo).

5.2.2 The Faculty Board may, on request, admit persons to the programme who do not meet the requirements as specified in 5.2.1, but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they possess a level of knowledge, understanding and skills equal to that of holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, points a and b possibly under further conditions, without prejudice to the requirements in 5.2.4.

### *Admission process*

Applicants as referred to in Article 5.2.1.b and Article 5.2.2. are requested to provide the Board of Admissions with:

- copies of diploma(s) and transcript(s)
- proof of language proficiency (if applicable, see 5.2.3)
- curriculum vitae (resume)
- a filled in 'Questionnaire Master Application' demonstrating that the candidate 1) has gained knowledge, understanding and skills in the field (of the specialisation) of the MA programme and 2) has acquired general academic skills as listed in Appendix B of the Faculty section of these regulations.
- a writing sample demonstrating the candidate's ability to formulate a clear philosophical research question, to develop and formulate a critical view on that question, and to support this view by means of argument and analysis.

The admission process may include an interview with the Board of Admissions, should this be necessary to clarify whether the applicant has the same level of knowledge, understanding and skills as holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1.a.

For further information on the admission procedure and required application documents please see <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters>.

### 5.2.3 Dutch and English languages

5.2.3.1 As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning command of the language of instruction, a student who wishes to be admitted to an English-taught master's programme must have one of the following diplomas, or must meet the criteria of:

- an [International Baccalaureate](#) diploma (with English A);
- a diploma of secondary or higher education completed in Australia, Canada (with the exception of French-language programmes in Canada), Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States or South-Africa;
- a diploma of an English-taught university degree programme completed at a Dutch research university;
- a Dutch pre-university education (VWO) diploma.

5.2.3.2 If a student who wishes to be admitted does not meet the requirements in 5.2.3.1, at least one of the following English language requirements for this master's programme can be set:

- IELTS 7.0;
- Toefl (internet-based) 100;
- C2 Proficiency (former CPE);
- C1 Advanced (former CAE) 185.

5.2.3.3 Not applicable.

5.2.3.4 Not applicable.

The Faculty Board may request that applicants demonstrate an adequate command at this level. For more information on language tests and diplomas which are sufficient with regard to the required command of

English please see <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/admission-and-application/masters/admission-requirements#language-requirements>.

#### Article 5.2.4 **Qualitative admission requirements**

5.2.4.1 Not applicable.

#### Article 5.2.5 **Capacity limitation**

5.2.5.1 Maximum capacity: not applicable.

#### Article 5.4 **Pre-master's Programmes**

5.4.1 The Programme has developed pre-master's programmes (for the following target groups) in order to remove deficiencies. Pre-master's programmes must be completed successfully within the prescribed period as specified in sub Article 5.2.1c.

This pre-master's programme is intended for applicants with a bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic bachelor's degree, who do not fulfil the entry requirements regarding the knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of philosophy, as specified in article 5.2.2. Students who successfully complete this pre-master programme of 60 EC will be admitted to the relevant specialisation of the Master's programme.

The pre-master's programme has a course load of 60 credits and consists of:

- compulsory introductory courses of 5 credits each,
- one elective course in philosophy of 5 credits from the relevant pre-master package (if applicable),
- advanced seminar(s) at third-year BA level of 10 credits each,

as specified in the table below. The choice of components depends on the chosen specialisation in the Master's programme in Philosophy (60 EC).

For candidates who can demonstrate to have relevant knowledge and skills related to one or more of the components of the pre-master's programme described below, the pre-master's programme may be tailored to their individual backgrounds (resulting in programmes smaller than 60 EC).

It is not possible for candidates with a degree from a Dutch University of Applied Sciences (hbo) to compensate deficiencies with the pre-master's programme.

#### Abbreviations:

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| GCP | Global and Comparative Philosophy                      |
| MEP | Modern European Philosophy                             |
| MPP | Moral and Political Philosophy                         |
| 3PE | Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and the Economy |
| PK  | Philosophy of Knowledge                                |

| Semester | Course unit title  | Level | Credits |     |     |     |     |    |
|----------|--|-------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
|          |  |       |         | GCP | MEP | MPP | 3PE | PK |
|          | Compulsory introductory courses, selected for the chosen master's specialisation):   |       |         |     |     |     |     |    |
| I        | Griekse en Romeinse filosofie / World Philosophies: Greek and Roman Antiquity  | 100   | 5       | X   | X   | X   | X   | X  |
| I        | World Philosophies: China  | 100   | 5       | X   |     |     |     |    |
| I        | History of Modern Philosophy   | 200   | 5       | X   | X   | X   | X   | X  |
| I        | Ethiek / Ethics  | 100   | 5       | X   | X   | X   | X   |    |
| I        | Politieke filosofie / Political Philosophy   | 200   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   |    |
| I        | Metafysica   | 100   | 5       |     |     |     |     | X  |
| I        | Logica / Logic   | 200   | 5       |     |     |     |     | X  |
| I        | Analytische filosofie  | 200   | 5       |     |     |     |     | X  |
| I        | Wetenschapsfilosofie / Philosophy of Science   | 200   | 5       |     |     |     |     | X  |
| I        | Philosophy of Mind   | 200   | 5       |     |     |     |     | X  |
| I        | Cultuurfilosofie / Philosophy of Culture   | 100   | 5       | X   | X   |     |     |    |
| I        | Comparative Philosophy   | 200   | 5       |     | X   |     |     |    |
| II       | World Philosophies: Africa   | 200   | 5       | X   |     |     |     |    |
| II       | World Philosophies: India  | 100   | 5       | X   |     |     |     |    |
| II       | World Philosophies: Middle East  | 200   | 5       | X   |     |     |     |    |
| II       | History of Political Philosophy  | 200   | 5       |     | X   | X   | X   |    |
| II       | Epistemologie / Epistemology   | 200   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   | X  |
| II       | Continentele filosofie   | 200   | 5       |     | X   |     |     |    |
| II       | Filosofische vaardigheden I / Philosophical Skills I   | 100   | 5       | X   | X   | X   | X   | X  |
|          |  |       |         | 45  | 40  | 35  | 35  | 45 |
|          | Optional courses: select one of the courses that are available for the chosen master's specialisation (GCP, MPP, 3PE and PK only)  |       |         |     |     |     |     |    |
| I        | Ethiek / Ethics  | 100   | 5       |     |     |     |     | X  |
| I        | Cultuurfilosofie / Philosophy of Culture   | 100   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   | X  |
| I        | Logica / Logic   | 200   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   |    |
| I        | Wetenschapsfilosofie / Philosophy of Science   | 200   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   |    |
| I        | Comparative Philosophy   | 200   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   | X  |
| I        | Language and Thought   | 200   | 5       | X   |     |     |     |    |
| I        | Concepts of Self   | 200   | 5       | X   |     |     |     |    |
| II       | Medieval Philosophy  | 100   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   | X  |
| II       | World Philosophies: Middle East  | 100   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   |    |
| II       | History of Political Philosophy  | 200   | 5       | X   |     |     |     | X  |
| II       | Continentele filosofie   | 200   | 5       |     |     | X   | X   | X  |
|          |  |       |         | 5   | 0   | 5   | 5   | 5  |
|          | Select one (GCP, PK) or two (MEP, MPP, 3PE) advanced seminar(s) from the courses that are available for the chosen specialisation. |       |         |     |     |     |     |    |
| I        | Intercultural Philosophical Hermeneutics   | 300   | 10      | X   |     |     |     |    |
| I        | Buddhist Philosophy  | 300   | 10      | X   |     |     |     |    |

|    |  |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|--|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| I  | African Political Theory and Philosophy of Social Change | 300 | 10 | X  |    |    |    |    |
| I  | Reading Avicenna in Medieval Times                       | 400 | 10 | X  |    |    |    |    |
| I  | The Rise of Aesthetic Rationality                        | 400 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| I  | Europe as a Philosophical Problem                        | 400 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| I  | Philosophy of Technology                                 | 300 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| I  | Critical Philosophy: Feminism, Gender and Race           | 400 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| I  | Metaethics   | 400 | 10 |    |    | X  | X  | X  |
| I  | Global Justice   | 300 | 10 |    |    | X  | X  |    |
| I  | Capitalism and Beyond                                    | 400 | 10 |    |    | X  | X  |    |
| I  | Philosophy of Language (TBA)                             | 400 | 10 |    |    |    |    | X  |
| I  | Wittgenstein on Certainty                                | 400 | 10 |    |    |    |    | X  |
| II | Conceptions of Knowledge in India and China              | 300 | 10 | X  |    |    |    |    |
| II | Islamic Thought: Past and Present                        | 400 | 10 | X  |    |    |    |    |
| II | Buddhist Moral Philosophy                                | 300 | 10 | X  |    |    |    |    |
| II | Feminist Theories in Chinese and Japanese Philosophy     | 400 | 10 | X  |    |    |    |    |
| II | Philosophy and Decolonization                            | 300 | 10 | X  |    |    |    |    |
| II | Existentialism   | 300 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| II | Heidegger and His Critics                                | 400 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| II | What is Thinking? Continental Conceptions                | 300 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| II | Twentieth Century French Philosophy                      | 400 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| II | Deleuze: Monism is Pluralism                             | 400 | 10 |    | X  |    |    |    |
| II | Kritische theorie  | 300 | 10 |    | X  | X  | X  |    |
| II | Hegels rechtsfilosofie                                   | 400 | 10 |    | X  | X  | X  |    |
| II | Environmental Philosophy                                 | 400 | 10 |    |    | X  | X  |    |
| II | Political Obligation                                     | 300 | 10 |    |    | X  | X  |    |
| II | Classics of Practical Philosophy                         | 300 | 10 |    |    | X  | X  |    |
| II | Moral Psychology   | 400 | 10 |    |    | X  | X  |    |
| II | Aristoteles Ethica Nicomachea                            | 300 | 10 |    |    | X  | X  |    |
| II | Contemporary Metaphysics                                 | 400 | 10 |    |    |    |    | X  |
| II | Truth and Its History                                    | 300 | 10 |    |    |    |    | X  |
| II | Philosophy of the Infinite                               | 400 | 10 |    |    |    |    | X  |
|    |  |     |    | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 |

## Chapter 7 Evaluation of the programme

### Article 7.1 Evaluation of the programme

The programme is evaluated as follows:

- course evaluations
- programme evaluation

The Programme Committee advises the Programme Board based on the outcomes of the evaluation.