

DOCTORAL STUDIES COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Name of subject	Field of science, code	Faculty / Center	Institute / Department
Trends in Contemporary Philosophy	H 001	Faculty of Philosophy	Institute of Philosophy
Student's workload	Credits	Student's workload	Credits
Lectures		Consultations	2
Independent study	8	Seminars	

Course annotation

The mandatory broad-profile course “The Essential Problems of the History of Philosophy” is directly linked to the theme of a doctoral student’s dissertation, that is, the doctoral students are supposed to study all questions listed in the course description (see below) according to the general problematic range of their doctoral dissertations. The doctoral student should demonstrate the knowledge of concrete sources of philosophy, the main controversies, the problems and the means of their solution; to be able to identify the main theoretical positions and methodological premises, to compare various philosophical trends and to find the points of their contact, coincidence, and divergence. The necessary condition of a successful preparation for this exam on the part of a doctoral student is the study of primary literature in the field of contemporary philosophy as well as of primary philosophical sources.

The final exam – and the assessment of its results – consists of two parts: a) an exhaustive written answer to two questions selected from those listed in the course program; b) spoken answers to questions posed by the members of examination commission. The questions for the written answers are presented to the doctoral student by the chairman of examination commission ten working days before the appointed date of the exam. The doctoral student presents his or her answers to the exam questions – 10 000 print characters of coherent and well-argued text for each of the two questions – not later than two working days before the appointed date of the exam, sending them via the department’s e-mail address.

In his or her written answer, the doctoral student is required: 1) to disclose the main theoretical premises of the given question’s problematic, to locate the main theses, problematic fields and the points of controversies; 2) to show the relevance and utility of a given question for his or her doctoral dissertation in terms of research methods, themes, polemics, controversies, as well as in terms of other aspects. The actual exam proceeds in the form of a scholarly discussion between the doctoral student and the members of examination commission. The final assessment is determined by the doctoral student’s answers to all questions posed in the course of examination procedure: the doctoral student should be prepared to answer a few additional – specifying and qualifying – questions posed by the members of examination commission, – questions that may arise from his or her written answers to the two initial questions posed beforehand by the chairman of the examination commission, as well as to answer other questions listed in the course program and posed by the members of examination commission. The examination commission assesses the doctoral student’s ability to articulate in written and spoken form the main controversies of various philosophical trends, their diachronic and synchronic contexts and conceptual links, as well as his or her ability to showcase their relevance to the problematic of one’s dissertation.

The questions of the course program are as follows.

Pragmatism

1. Pragmatist critique of New Age philosophy: the interplay of theory and praxis in the

concept of action.

2. Pragmatist method and pragmatist concept of truth.

3. Defining the concept of experience: W. James's "stream of consciousness"; J. Dewey's antifundamentalism.

4. Impact of pragmatist ideas on analytic philosophy (W. Quine, H. Putnam).
Neopragmatism (R. Rorty).

Phenomenology

1. Phenomenological principles, methods, their development and modifications (M. Husserl, M. Merleau-Ponty, German, French and American phenomenology).

2. Hermeneutical turn in phenomenology (M. Heidegger).

3. Impact of phenomenology on existentialism, hermeneutics and postmodern philosophy.

4. Currents and problems of contemporary phenomenology.

Existentialism

1. The problem of human existence in 20th century existentialism.

2. „Religious“ and „atheistic“ existentialism.

Hermeneutics

1. Trends, methods and development of hermeneutics in 20th and 21st century.

2. Hermeneutics of facticity and its continuance in the philosophical hermeneutics (M. Heidegger, H.G. Gadamer).

3. Italian hermeneutics of „weak thinking“.

4. Controversy between hermeneutics and deconstruction.

Frankfurt school

1. Negative dialectics of T. Adorno and M. Horkheimer.

2. Habermasian theory of communicative action.

Positivism of the 20th century

1. Vienna Circle and Unity of Science movement. Philosophy of M. Schlick and R. Carnap as logical analysis.

2. Formal and empirical sciences. Criterion of empirical meaningfulness. Foundation of

knowledge. Probabilistic evaluation of scientific knowledge.

3. K. Popper's problem of demarcation between science and metaphysics. The concept of objective knowledge in K. Popper's philosophy.

4. Rethinking ideas of logical positivism in the philosophy of science. Postpositivistic criticism (T. Kuhn ir P. Feyerabend).

Analytic philosophy

1. Unifying theoretical base for the analytic tradition. The concept of analytical method.

2. Logical atomism (B. Russell, early L. Wittgenstein).

3. Relation and concept of artificial and natural languages. Sintactical, semantical, pragmatological and contextual analysis of language. The concept of language games (late L. Wittgenstein).

4. Cambridge-Oxford school of daily language philosophy. Speech acts theory.

5. Expansion of concept and content of language in referential semantics. Distinction of wide and narrow content. Internalism and externalism.

6. The problem of epistemological and metaphysical status of modal statements and modal truths.

Postmodern philosophy

1. The problem of defining modernity and postmodernity (J. Lyotard, J. Habermas, W. Welsch).

2. Criticism or continuance of modern thinking in the Frankfurt School.

3. Ways and presuppositions of postmodern thinking (J. Baudrillard, M. Foucault, G. Deleuze, J. Derrida).

Face-to-face instruction according to current needs.

Reading list

E. Brehier. Histoire de la philosophie, vol. 1-3, 1981.

F. Copleston. A History of Philosophy, vol. 1-9, 1946-1974.

S. Dasgupta. A History of Indian Philosophy, vol. 1-5, 1922.

G. Reale. A History of Ancient Philosophy, vol. 1-5, 1985-1990 (Storia della filosofia antica in 5 volumi (1975)).

K. Vorländer. Geschichte der Philosophie, (rde), Bd. 1-5, 1963-1967.

The names of consulting teachers	Science degree	Main scientific works published in a scientific field in last 5 year period
Jonas Dagys	Dr.	Berniūnas, R., Dagys, J., Dranseika, V., (2017). „Proper names, rigid designation, and empirical

Tomas Sodeika

Dr. (hp)

studies on personal identity“ // Topoi. An International Review of Philosophy. ISSN: 0167-7411.

Dagys, Jonas, Pastabos apie Rolando Pavilionio neverbalinio kontinuumo idėją. Problemos 2014 priedas, ISSN 1392-1126 p. 18-28.

Dagys, Jonas, Dranseika, Vilius, Grenda, Vytautas, Vasilionytė, Ieva, Reduktyvizmo raiška šiuolaikinėje analitinėje filosofijoje. Problemos 2014, t. 85, ISSN 1392-1126 p. 141-152.

Dagys, Jonas, Šiuolaikinė psichofizinio reduktvizmo ir antireduktvizmo polemika ir jos metodologinės išdavos. Problemos 2012 priedas, ISSN 1392-1126 p. 22-36.

Dagys, Jonas, Nekrašas, Evaldas, Analitinė kalbos ir mokslo filosofija Lietuvoje. Problemos / Vilniaus universitetas. 2010, t. 78. ISSN 1392-1126 p. 43-51.

Dagys, Jonas, Putnamian anti-envattor ver. 3.00: new features - same results. Problemos / Vilniaus universitetas. 2010, t. 77. ISSN 1392-1126 p. 39-48.

Ontology in the Age of Mechanical Reproducibility. In: Images of Europe: Past, Present, Future. ISSEI 2014 Conference Proceedings, Porto, Portugal. Ed.by Yolanda Espina. Porto: Universidade Catolica Editora, 2016, ISBN 978-989-8366-82-5; p.1198-1206.

Zu den Sachen selbst: Phänomenologie, Erste Philosophie und die Schriftlichkeit. In: Überwundene Metaphysik? Beiträge zur Konstellation von Phänomenologie und Metaphysikkritik. Hg. von M.Ates, O.Bruns, Choong-Su Han, O.S. Schulz. Karl Alber 2016. ISBN 978-3-495-48759-4; S.47-57.

Ontologijos transformacijos: medijos, nihilizmas, etika. Monografija. Vilnius: Vilniaus universiteto leidykla, 2015. ISBN 978-609-459-609-4. (bendraautorės: Rita Šerpytė, Danutė Bacevičiūtė)

Postmetafizinės Ungrund principo prielaidos Schellingo laisvės filosofijoje. In: Problemos: mokslo darbai. T. 88 (2015), ISSN 1392-1126, p. 44-53. (bendraautorė - B. Gelžinytė)

Zur Medienkonkurrenz in der Philosophie: Wort vs.Bild. In: Visuelle Philosophie. Hrsg. von H.Deppner. Würzburg: Königshausen/Neumann, 2015, ISBN 978-3-8260-5480-8; S.131-140.

Das Heilige in der Zeitalter seiner technischen Reproduzierbarkeit // Lauster, Jorg, Schuz, Peter, Barth, Roderich , Danz, Christian (Hrsg.) Rudolf Otto: Theologie-Religionsphilosophie-Religionsgeschichte. De Gruyter, 2014, ISBN 978-3-11-031096-2, S.639-650

„Kino ontologija“. In: Athena: filosofijos

Marius Povilas Šaulauskas	Dr. (hp)	<p>studijos. Vilnius: Lietuvos kultūros tyrimų instituto leidykla. 2014, nr. 9, ISSN 1822-5047; p. 26-45.</p> <p>„Revizionistinis konstruktyviojo empirizmo normatyvumas“ (kartu su J. Bujoku). - Problemos, Nr. 83, Vilnius, 2014, p. 48-61;</p> <p>„Heideggerio bylos“ byla: filosofijos silpnatvė ir stiprybė“ (kartu su L. Adomaičiu). - Sociologija. Mintis ir veiksmas, nr. 1 (34). Vilnius: VU ir KU, 2015, p. 5-15;</p> <p>„Frege's Bedeutung kaip reikšmė ir kaip nurodymas“ (kartu su A. Plėšniu). - Problemos, Nr. 91, Vilnius, 2017, p. 29-43;</p> <p>„Ecological citizenship: habitus of care in the public sphere“ (kartu su A. Bartkiene, R. Bikauskaite). - Problemos. Vilniaus universiteto leidykla, 2018, t. 93, p. 129-141;</p> <p>„Rethinking Ecological Citizenship“ (kartu su A. Bartkiene, R. Bikauskaite, D. Mincyte). - Vilnius, Lithuania: Vilnius University Press, 2019.</p>
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Certified during Doctoral Committee session on 2019-10-22. Protocol No. 250000-KI-41

Committee Chairman prof. Marius Povilas Šaulauskas