



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

| Course unit (module) title | Code |
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| Anthropocene: challenging human self – awareness Antropocenas: iššūkis žmogaus savimonei | |

| Academic staff | Core academic unit(s) |
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| Coordinating: Prof. Mintautas Gutas Other: | Vilnius University Faculty of Philosophy, Universiteto str. 9, LT-01513 Vilnius, tel. (8 5) 266 7600, el. p. fsf@fsf.vu.lt |

| Study cycle | Type of the course unit |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| First | Optional |

| Mode of delivery | Semester or period when it is delivered | Language of instruction |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Face to face and self-study | 2 nd semester (spring) | English |

| Requisites | |
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| Prerequisites: none | Co-requisites (if relevant): none |

| Number of ECTS credits allocated | Student's workload (total) | Contact hours | Individual work |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 5 | 135 | 48 | 87 |

| Purpose of the course unit | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| <p>This course aims to educate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An understanding of the Anthropocene epoch and the changes that have occurred in the actual human condition and its self-awareness in the face of today's climate change, also ability to relate the reflection of these changes to modern philosophy concepts; - An understanding of the roots of the current crisis in Western thought, which is based on hierarchical human-animal and human-nature relationships together with ability to discuss possible ways out of the crisis and analyse new images of the human being, nature and planet | | |
| Learning outcomes of the course unit | Teaching and learning methods | Assessment methods |
| Students will be introduced to the main philosophical interpretations of the Anthropocene, their main arguments and thesis. | Lectures | A written exam |
| Students will learn to recognise the structures of modern thinking in philosophical approaches and in everyday life by analysing the relationship between human and nature, human beings and animals. | Seminar work, lectures | Active participation in seminars, a written exam, evaluation of the oral presentation |
| Students will be able to recognise and independently analyse the fundamental changes that have taken place in the | | |

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| Anthropocene in human understanding of itself and its relationship with the natural environment. | | |
| Students will be able to recognise, independently analyse and discuss issues of human responsibility towards nature and animals. | | |

| Content | Contact hours | | | | | | | Individual work: time and assignments | |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | Lectures | Tutorials | Seminars | Workshops | Laboratory work | Internship | Contact hour total | Individual work | Tasks for individual work |
| 1. Lecture. What is the Anthropocene? The Anthropocene as a geological event and as an event in human self-awareness. Definitions, diagnoses, and narratives of the epoch. Naturalist, post-naturalist, eco-Marxist, and eco-phenomenological narratives. | 2 | | | | | | 2 | | none |
| 2. Seminar. Narratives of the Anthropocene. | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 4 | Bonneuil, „The Geological Turn. Narratives of the Anthropocene“, |
| 3. Lectures. Genesis of the Anthropocene. Modernity and the Anthropocene. The mathematisation and “enframing” (transformation into a resource) of nature in the New Age modernity. Reflexivity and the disembedding of space and time - principles of modernity’s thinking and relationship to the environment. The end of nature as a feature of late modernity. The relationship between the Anthropocene and late modernity in terms of the control of time and space. | 6 | | | | | | 6 | | none |
| 4. Seminar. The characteristics of late modernity. | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 4 | Giddens, <i>Modernity and Self-Identity</i> . p. 10-31. |
| 5. Lectures. The origins and critique of anthropocentrism. The formation of the hierarchical relationship between humans and animals, man and nature in Greek philosophy, Christianity, and New Age modernity. The search for the foundations of the new humanism and the essence of human in the 20th century philosophy. Contemporary critique of anthropocentrism. G. Agamben: the anthropological machine and the question of overcoming anthropocentrism. | 8 | | | | | | 8 | | none |

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| 6. Seminar. Anthropological machine and constitution of human. | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 4 | Agamben, <i>The Open</i> , p. 13-38. |
| 7. Lecture. In search of a new relationship with nature. The Anthropocene as a developing of the imagination. The emergence of the global imaginary and its impact on our everyday experience. How does our relationship to the Earth depend on our imagination of it? | 4 | | | | | | 4 | | none |
| 8. Seminar. B. Latour: Globe vs. Gaia, D. Chakrabarty: Globe vs. The Planetary. | | | 6 | | | | 6 | 14 | Latour, <i>Facing Gaia</i> .p. 111-145. Chakrabarty, <i>The Climate of History in a Planetary Age</i> . p. 23-92. |
| 9. Lectures. In search of a new relationship with nature. D. Chakrabarty: The conjoining of natural and human history. New forms of self-awareness - humanity as a species and as a geological force. A shift in self-awareness - from <i>homo faber</i> to <i>homo detritus</i> . What carbon footprint and waste say about humans? | 6 | | | | | | 6 | | none |
| 10. Seminar. Phenomenology of waste and human self-awareness. | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 4 | Gutauskas, "Phenomenology of Waste in the Anthropocene" |
| 11. Lectures. In search of a new relationship with nature and animals. The nature of human responsibility. The formation of the concept of responsibility in Western philosophy. The extension and inflation of responsibility in the Anthropocene. The question of the limits of human responsibility. | 6 | | | | | | 6 | | none |
| 12. Seminar. The limits of human responsibility. | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 4 | Bacevičiūtė, "The Inflation" of Responsibility" |
| 13. Preparing for an oral presentation in seminar (presentation of a selected part of the text). | | | | | | | | 6 | Reading and analysing of selected text. |
| 14. Study of secondary literature, exam preparation. | | | | | | | | 47 | |
| Total | 32 | | 16 | | | | 48 | 87 | |

| Assessment strategy | Weight % | Deadline | Assessment criteria |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|---|
| Exam | 50 | In the examination session | The student will answer in writing two questions from the programme. The following will be assessed: Good knowledge of the issues; familiar with the sources; clear understanding of the main concepts, thesis and argumentation; fluent, coherent presentation - 4 to 5 points. Identifies the most general issues, understands the most general theses and arguments, and presents a reasonably coherent presentation - 1 to 3 points. |
| Active participation in seminars | 20 | During the semester | Accumulative mark. The following will be assessed: demonstration of knowledge and competence, creativity in examining, explaining and solving problems - 1 to 2 points. |

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| Oral presentation | 30 | During the semester | <p>Presentation of a selected part of the text.</p> <p>Recognises key concepts and thesis - 1 point.</p> <p>Recognises the main concepts and theses and presents the development of the argument of the text – 2 point.</p> <p>Presents the main issues, the main thesis and the argumentation in a coherent and articulate manner, formulating the main questions - 3 point.</p> |
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| Author (-s) | Publishing year | Title | Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication | Publishing house or web link |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Required reading | | | | |
| Christophe Bonneuil | 2015 | “The Geological Turn. Narratives of the Anthropocene”, in Clive Hamilton, Christophe Bonneuil, Francois Gemenne, <i>The Anthropocene and the Global Environmental Crisis. Rethinking Modernity in a New Epoch.</i> | | London: Routledge |
| Anthony Giddens | 1991 | <i>Modernity and Self-Identity. Self and Society in the Late Modern Age</i> | | Cambridge, Polity Press |
| Giorgio Agamben | 2004 | <i>The Open. Man and Animal</i> | | Stanford University Press |
| Bruno Latour | 2017 | <i>Facing Gaia. Eight Lectures on the New Climatic Regime</i> | | Cambridge: Polity Press |
| Dipesh Chakrabarty | 2021 | <i>The Climate of History in a Planetary Age</i> | | Chicago: The University of Chicago Press |
| Danutė Bacevičiūtė | 2014 | “The “Inflation” of Responsibility”, in: G. Chiurazzi, D. Sisto, S. Tinning (Eds.) <i>Philosophical Paths in the Public Sphere</i> , p. 159-176. | | Wien: LIT Verlag |
| Mintautas Gatauskas | 2023 | “Phenomenology of Waste in the Anthropocene”, in: Wilmer, S. E., Žukauskaitė, A (ed.) <i>Life in Posthuman Condition. Critical Responses to the Anthropocene.</i> p. 71-86. | | Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press |
| Mintautas Gatauskas | 2023 | “Ecological Self-Awareness in the Anthropocene”, in; S. Geniusas (ed.) <i>Varieties of Self-Awareness: New Perspectives from</i> | | Springer |

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| | | <i>Phenomenology, Hermeneutics and Comparative Philosophy. Contributions to Phenomenology, Vol. 121.</i> | | |
| Recommended reading | | | | |
| Anthony Giddens | 1990 | <i>The Consequences of Modernity.</i> | | Cambridge: Polity Press |
| Donna Haraway | 2016 | <i>Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene</i> | | Durham: Duke University Press |
| Timothy Clark | 2015 | <i>Ecocriticism on the Edge. The Anthropocene as a Threshold Concept</i> | | London: Bloomsbury |