

Master in Modern and Contemporary European Philosophy



Humanities

Summer Semester 2024

Booklet



□ FACULTY OF HUMANITIES,
EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Welcome Back

Dear students,

welcome to the summer semester 2024!

As always, the booklet provides general information on the program as well as information on the courses taught in semester 2 and 4.

One additional point of information:

In summer we will have two guest lectures (on Mondays at 5:30 pm/Master Colloquium):

March 18

Prof. Dr. Rebekka Hufendiek (University of Ulm): Science and Ideology

May 27

Prof. Dr. Andrea Staiti (University of Parma): *tba*

Please regularly check the institute's website for news and events.

On behalf of the Institute of Philosophy I wish you an excellent summer semester 2024!

Best,

Dietmar Heidemann

(study director)

Teaching Staff

Name	Course	Semester
Sabrina Bauer	Transcendental Philosophy (M2)	Summer 2024
	Master Colloquium (a/c)	Summer 2024
Stephen Buckle	Philosophy of Enlightenment (M1)	Summer 2024
Arnaud Dewalque	Phenomenology (M3)	Summer 2024
Norbert Campagna	German Idealism II (M2)	Summer 2024
Thomas Raleigh	Further topics in philosophy and AI (M5)	Summer 2024
Dietmar Heidemann	<i>On research leave</i>	Summer 2024

Modules and ECTS

<p style="text-align: center;">Module 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Early modern European philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar 1 (5 ECTS) - Seminar 2 (5 ECTS) - Seminar 3 (5 ECTS) <p style="text-align: center;">ECTS: 15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Module 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kant and German Idealism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar 1 (5 ECTS) - Seminar 2 (5 ECTS) - Seminar 3 (5 ECTS) - Seminar 4 (5 ECTS) <p style="text-align: center;">ECTS: 20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Module 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20th century and contemporary European philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seminar 1 (5 ECTS) - Seminar 2 (5 ECTS) - Seminar 3 (5 ECTS) - Seminar 4 (5 ECTS) <p style="text-align: center;">ECTS: 20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Module 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Master module</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master colloquium 1 (5 ECTS) - Master colloquium 2 (5 ECTS) - Master colloquium 3 (5 ECTS) - Defence of the master thesis (5 ECTS) <p style="text-align: center;">ECTS: 20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Module 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Electives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internship (5 ECTS) - Intensive language course (5 ECTS) - Interdisciplinary course (5 ECTS) <p style="text-align: center;">ECTS: 15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Module 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Master thesis (30ECTS)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ECTS: 30</p>
<p>$\Sigma = 120$ ECTS</p>	

Semestral Overview

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5	No. of courses
Early modern European philosophy	Kant and German Idealism	20 th century and contemporary European philosophy	Master module	Electives module	
SEMESTER 1					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rationalism ▪ Empiricism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kant ▪ German Idealism I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contemporary European philosophy I ▪ Nietzsche/Philosophy of Existence/Hermeneutics 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensive language course: French or German 	7
SEMESTER 2					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Philosophy of Enlightenment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transcendental philosophy ▪ German Idealism II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phenomenology 	Master colloquium (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interdisciplinary course 	6
SEMESTER 3					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rationalism (cf. semester 1) ▪ Empiricism (cf. semester 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ German Idealism I (cf. semester 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contemporary European philosophy I (cf. semester 1) ▪ Contemporary European philosophy II 	Master colloquium (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internship 	2 plus internship
SEMESTER 4					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ German Idealism II (cf. semester 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Phenomenology (cf. semester 2) 	Master colloquium (c)		1
Σ courses per module					
3 courses	4 courses	4 courses	3 courses	2 courses plus internship	Σ 16 courses plus internship

Semester Schedule

Master in Modern and Contemporary European Philosophy

Semester 2 - Summer 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00 - 9.30					
9.45 - 11.15			Further topics in philosophy and AI (optional/elective) T. Raleigh		
11.30 - 13.00				Phenomenology (M3) A.Dewalque <i>[see guichet for teaching days]</i>	
13.15 - 14.45		Philosophy of Enlightenment (M1) Stephen Buckle <i>[see guichet for teaching days]</i>		Phenomenology (M3) Arnaud Dewalque <i>[see guichet for teaching days]</i>	
15.00 - 16.30	Transcendental Philosophy (M2) Sabrina Bauer	Philosophy of Enlightenment (M1) Stephen Buckle <i>[see guichet for teaching days]</i>			
16.45 - 18.15 ...	17.30-19.00: Master Colloquium (a)/(c) (M4) Sabrina Bauer		German Idealism II: (M2) Norbert Campagna		

Master in Modern and Contemporary European Philosophy

Semester 4 - Summer 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00 - 9.30					
9.45 - 11.15					
11.30 - 13.00				Phenomenology (M3) A.Dewalque <i>[see guichet for teaching days]</i>	
13.15 - 14.45				Phenomenology (M3) A.Dewalque <i>[see guichet for teaching days]</i>	
15.00 - 16.30					
16.45 - 18.15 ...	17.30-19.00: Master Colloquium (a)/(c) (M4) Sabrina Bauer		German Idealism II (M2) Norbert Campagna		

Course Descriptions

Philosophy of the Enlightenment

Module	1
ECTS	5

Instructor:
Dr Stephen Buckle

Learning objectives: To provide an account of the primary sources of Enlightenment thought
To provide an account of Hume's philosophy as an Enlightenment philosophy

Course description: The 18th century Enlightenment has suffered from being interpreted too much after the fact, by both supporters and critics. This course will provide a corrective: first, by identifying the primary background stimulus to Enlightenment thought, and, secondly, by focusing on the philosophy of David Hume to bring out its expression of fundamental Enlightenment themes.

Enlightenment philosophy has its roots in the scientific revolution of the 17th century, which, by effecting a break with inherited conceptions of the nature of the world and its workings, undermined established convictions about what was known and how it could be known, and thereby also undermined traditional authority in religion, morality, and politics.

Studies of the Enlightenment often focus on the French radical *philosophes*, such as Voltaire, Diderot, d'Alembert, d'Holbach, Condorcet, and (more problematically) Rousseau. But to do so is to put the cart before the horse, because it is to ignore their main intellectual debts – even though several of them are happy to identify them explicitly. Thus Voltaire, and, following him, d'Alembert and Condorcet, all commend Descartes for his bold rejection of tradition in his *Discourse on Method*. But for providing the foundations on which a new philosophical outlook can be built, they all point to the English empiricist philosophers: Francis Bacon, John Locke, and Isaac Newton. In short, the French radicals identify themselves as indebted to the English empiricists.

Hume's philosophy is a parallel development from the same main sources (with the addition of the shaping influence of Thomas Hobbes, himself a student of Bacon). Hume's character as an Enlightenment thinker is obscured by his more sceptical epistemology, and by his reputation as a conservative. But his philosophy is a sceptical version of Enlightenment materialism, and, like the French materialisms, leads to sharp critiques of inherited religion and morality. The course will consider a range of Hume's works, but with a particular focus on the *Treatise of Human Nature*, in order to bring out these themes.

Course type: Seminar

Bibliography:

PRIMARY MATERIALS

Clarke, *A Demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God*

D'Alembert, *Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia of Diderot*

Descartes, *Discourse on Method*

D'Holbach, *The System of Nature*

Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*

Hume, *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*

I. Kant, "An Answer to the Question, 'What is Enlightenment?'"

La Mettrie, *Machine Man*

Locke, *An Essay concerning Human Understanding*

Newton, *Philosophical Writings* (ed. Janiak)

Spinoza, *Ethics*

Voltaire, *Letters on the English Nation*

SECONDARY MATERIALS

A. Bailey & D. O'Brien, *Hume's Enquiry concerning Human Understanding* (Continuum, 2006)

S. Buckle, *Hume's Enlightenment Tract* (Oxford, 2001)

P. Fosl, *Hume's Scepticism* (Edinburgh, 2020)

P. Gay, *The Enlightenment* (Norton, 1966, 1969; 2 Vols)

I. Kramnick (ed.), *The Portable Enlightenment Reader* (Penguin, 1995)

D. Rasmussen, *The Pragmatic Enlightenment* (Cambridge, 2014)

R. Robertson, *The Enlightenment* (Allen Lane, 2020)

P. Russell, *The Riddle of Hume's Treatise* (Oxford, 2008)

P. Russell, *Recasting Hume and Early Modern Philosophy* (Oxford, 2021)

R. Susato, *Hume's Sceptical Enlightenment* (Edinburgh, 2015)

J. B. Shank, *The Newton Wars and the Beginning of the French Enlightenment* (Chicago, 2008)

C. Taylor & S. Buckle (ed.), *Hume and the Enlightenment* (Pickering & Chatto, 2011)

J. Wright, *Hume's A Treatise of Human Nature: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2009)

ANTHOLOGIES

D. Ainslie & A. Butler (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Hume's Treatise* (Cambridge, 2015)

A. Coventry & A. Sager (ed.), *The Humean Mind* (Routledge, 2019)

D. Norton & J. Taylor (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Hume* (Cambridge, 1993, 2009)

E. Radcliffe (ed.), *A Companion to Hume* (Blackwell, 2008)

P. Russell (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to Hume* (Oxford, 2016)

Examination: Assessment will be by term paper

Time: Tuesdays, 13.15-14.45, 15.00-16.30

Transcendental Philosophy

Module 2

ECTS 5

Instructor: Dr. Sabrina Bauer

Learning objectives: Students learn to systematically grasp and evaluate Kant's critical position on the question of the provability of God's existence. In doing so, they acquire a deeper understanding of Kant's transcendental philosophy about the basic epistemological assumptions on which Kant's critique of traditional metaphysical cognitive claims are based. They develop the ability to relate Kant's critical position to pre-critical rationalist philosophy and to comprehend both in their theses and arguments. By the end of the course, students should be able to name the possible grounds of proof for the existence of God (from both speculative and practical reason) and to reconstruct and evaluate the argumentations.

Course description: Before Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, rational theology was a natural part of metaphysical textbooks, in which the traditional proofs for the existence of God were presented and discussed. After the publication of the first Critique in 1781, Kant's philosophy then was seen as an outrageous attack on metaphysics, as exemplified in Mendelssohn's dictum of the "all-crushing [Alleszerstörer] Kant" from his journal *Morgenstunden*. According to Heine's diagnosis, the Critique of Pure Reason even is the "sword" with which deism and metaphysics in general were "executed in Germany". Are these judgments justified? What then are we to make of Kant's statement in the B preface that he had to "deny knowledge in order to make room for faith" (CpR B XXX)?

As is well known, the "transcendental dialectic" of the Critique of Pure Reason does indeed contain a comprehensive critique of the traditional *metaphysica specialis*, which deals with God, the immortality of the soul and human freedom. In the seminar, we want to focus on the third main section, namely the Kantian presentation and critique of the traditional proofs of God. To grasp the difference to a pre-critical treatment of the topic, we will also deal with the Kantian writing of 1763 '*The Only Possible Argument in Support of a Demonstration of the Existence of God*' and furthermore, in order to take a complete view of the topic within the framework of Kantian philosophy, we will also briefly study and discuss the postulate doctrine of the second critique and the moral proof of God from the third critique. Kant was concerned with the question of God throughout his philosophical work. This preoccupation has a destructive, but also a constructive side, both of which we want to look at.

Previous knowledge of Kantian philosophy, in particular of the *Critique of Pure Reason*, and the willingness to prepare the specified texts thoroughly through intensive reading so that we can discuss them profitably are required. In addition, students are expected to give a presentation, which accounts for 25% of the overall grade, and to write a term paper at the end of the semester, which will account for 75% of the grade. Regular attendance is mandatory.

Course type: Seminar

Bibliography: Any study edition that lists the original pages of:

- *Critique of Pure Reason*
- *Critique of Practical Reason*
- *Critique of Judgement*

The Only Possible Argument in Support of a Demonstration of the Existence of God (1763). In: Kant, Theoretical Philosophy, 1755-70. David Walford (Ed.), Cambridge University Press 1992, 107-202.

Secondary literature will be announced at the beginning of the course.

Examination:

Seminar paper: 75%

Presentation: 25%

Time:

Monday 3-4.30 p.m.

German Idealism II: Johann Gottlieb Fichte's Legal and Political Philosophy

Module 2

ECTS 5

Instructor: Norbert Campagna

Learning objectives: At the end of the course, participants should:

- a) know the problems and understand the relevance of the problems Fichte intends to solve with his legal and political philosophy
- b) know the central concepts of Fichte's legal and political philosophy (contract, freedom, right, State, ephorate, ...)
- c) be able to locate Fichte's political and legal thought in its epoch
- d) know the basic differences between Fichte's thought and that of some of his contemporaries
- e) be able to evaluate the contemporary relevance of some of Fichte's ideas

Course description: Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762-1814) is one of the major legal and political thinkers of the late 18th and early 19th century. In the twenty years separating his early defence of the French Revolution against Rehberg (1793) and his late lectures on *Rechtslehre* (1812) and *Staatslehre* (1813), Fichte has written and published a series of texts relating to the question of the rational organization of society and the State. Outstanding among these is his *Grundlage des Naturrechts nach Prinzipien der Wissenschaftslehre* (1796/7). It is this text which will serve as the main basis of the course, though some other of Fichte's texts will also be used as objects of comparison or as complements so as to give a picture of Fichte's legal and political thought that is as complete as possible and which also takes account of the evolution of his thought on some questions. Among the topics to be discussed in the course are the following: the concept of right and its relation to freedom, with a special emphasis on the *Urrecht*; the conception of the State and its economic dimension; the philosophy of international law; the philosophy of penal law; the philosophy of sexual morality and sexual law; Fichte on the French Revolution and on nationalism. We will also compare Fichte's legal and political thought with that of other more or less contemporary authors (e.g. Rousseau, Kant, Hegel). For each week, students will have to read an average of roughly 30 pages of the *Foundations of Natural Law/Grundlage des Naturrechts*.

Course type: Seminar

Bibliography: 1. Primary literature

Text used in class:

Johann Gottlieb Fichte, *Grundlage des Naturrechts*, Hamburg 1979. English translation: *Foundations of Natural Right*, Cambridge 2000.

As the course will be held in English, it is highly recommended that all students have the English translation.

Other works by Fichte are relatively easily and comparatively cheaply available in *Fichtes Werke*, herausgegeben von Immanuel Hermann Fichte (Berlin 1971) or in the volumes published by the Felix Meiner Verlag in the Philosophische Bibliothek (Hamburg, passim). The

authoritative edition is: *Johann Gottlieb Fichte-Gesamtausgabe*, Stuttgart-Bad Canstatt 1962 ff.

Important for our purposes are: *Beitrag zur Berichtigung der Urteile des Publikums über die französische Revolution*; *Der geschlossene Handelsstaat*; *Die Grundzüge des gegenwärtigen Zeitalters*; *Reden an die deutsche Nation*; *Die Bestimmung des Menschen*; *Rechtslehre*; *Staatslehre*.

2. Secondary literature (selection)

Beck, Gunnar, *Fichte and Kant on Freedom, Rights, and Law*, Lanham e.a. 2008

Gottlieb, Gabriel (ed.), *Foundations of Natural Right. A Critical Guide*, Cambridge 2018.

James, David, *Fichte's Social and Political Philosophy*, Cambridge 2013.

James, David and Zoller, Günther (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Fichte*, Cambridge 2016.

Merle, Jean-Christophe (Hrsg.), *Johann Gottlieb Fichte: Grundlage des Naturrechts*. Reihe Klassiker auslegen, Berlin/Boston 2016².

Renaut, Alain, *Le système du droit : Philosophie et droit dans la pensée de Fichte*, Paris 1986.

Examination: Assessment will be by term paper

Time: Wednesday 16.45 – 18.15

Phenomenology

Module 3 – 20th century and contemporary European philosophy

ECTS 5 [Click here to enter text.](#)

Instructor Arnaud Dewalque

Learning objectives Students will acquire a thorough understanding of Franz Brentano's phenomenological approach to the mind and should be able to critically discuss his positions and connect them to disputed questions in present-day analytic philosophy of mind.

Course descriptions *Phenomenological analysis* recently attracted increasing interest among analytic philosophers of mind. One crucial motivation for appealing to phenomenological analysis comes from the fact that any study of the human mind has to account somehow for the way things appear to us or are experienced from a first-person perspective. Phenomenological analysis precisely aims at describing first-person experiences, providing us with fine-grained distinctions between our mental states, exploring the theoretical (philosophical) consequences of such distinctions, and constructing critical arguments about competing views of the mind.

Each session will be devoted to one or several chapters of Franz Brentano's *Psychology from an Empirical Standpoint*. As we will see, this book, which is full of innovative insights, is of ground-breaking importance for a number of issues in contemporary philosophy of mind: the criteria of mentality, the significance of the first-person perspective, the nature of consciousness, the structure of experience, the variety of attitude types, the nature of cognitive and emotional experiences, etc.

Course type Seminar

Bibliography *F. Brentano, *Psychologie vom empirischen Standpunkte* (Here after PES)

- Original edition: Leipzig, Duncker & Humblot, 1874, 2nd ed. 1924. Reprinted in Brentano F., *Sämtliche veröffentlichte Schriften*, vol. I., Th. Binder and A. Chrudzimski (eds.), Frankfurt/Main, Ontos Verlag, 2008.
- Trad. fr. M. de Gandillac, revue par J.-F. Courtine, *Psychologie du point de vue empirique*, Paris, Vrin, 2008.
- **Engl. edition by L. L. McAlister, *Psychology from an Empirical Standpoint*, trans. by A. Rancurello, D. B. Terrell and L. L. McAlister, London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1973, 1995; with a foreword by Tim Crane, Routledge, 2015.**

The relevant chapters will be made available on Moodle.

Further, recommended reading (optional):

*U. Kriegel (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Brentano and the Brentano School*, London, Routledge, 2017.

*F. Brentano, *Deskriptive Psychologie*:

- Original edition: R. M. Chisholm et W. Baumgartner (eds.), Hamburg, Meiner, 1982; new, critical ed. In preparation by G. Fréchette.
- Trad. fr. A. Dewalque, *Psychologie descriptive*, Paris, Gallimard, 2017.
- Engl. trans. by B. Müller, *Descriptive Psychology*, London, Routledge, 1995, 2002.

Additional support and references may be made available on Moodle.

Exam

Final paper

Original papers (2000-2400 words / 6-8 pages) should address one of the topics discussed

during the classes and be written in English, French or German. They should be send to [arnaud.dewalque\(a\)uni.lu](mailto:arnaud.dewalque(a)uni.lu) (cc'd to [a.dewalque\(a\)uliege.be](mailto:a.dewalque(a)uliege.be)). They are expected to meet the academic standards (in terms of language quality, clarity and logical articulation, full-blown references, etc.).

Assessment criteria: (i) participation in critical discussions during the classes, (ii) good understanding of the content of the classes/the topic addressed in the final paper, (iii) clarity and articulation of the answers/paper.

Time slot

(see *guichet étudiant*)

FURTHER TOPICS IN AI & PHILOSOPHY

Module 5

ECTS 5

Instructor: Thomas Raleigh

Learning objectives: By the end of this course students should have acquired a basic grounding in epistemology, as well as a good understanding of recent developments in A.I. technology. The aim will be to provide students with the conceptual tools to be comfortable working in an inter-disciplinary manner. Students will develop critical and communicative skills by engaging with literature and topics from both philosophy and computer science. The emphasis in this course will be on developing the ability to collaborate across disciplines so as to explore and provide possible solutions to philosophical problems that are generated by Artificial Intelligence.

Course description: Artificial Intelligence technologies – especially those connected to the internet and social media – are already radically changing how we form beliefs and gain/lose knowledge. But whilst there has been lots of recent work on the ethical implications of AI, there has been less theoretical attention paid to the epistemological implications of AI. In this course we will look at how epistemological concepts and insights might help to illuminate developments in AI, as well as at how AI might have positive and negative effects on human rationality and knowledge. We will try to approach these questions from an inter-disciplinary perspective. The course will be run in as a research seminar, looking at recent cutting edge work in the philosophy of AI. By the end of the course, students should have sufficient understanding both of core philosophical concepts and the technical details of AI technology, that they can precisely articulate epistemological problems and theories but also understand how concrete technological and computational constraints bear on these problems.

Course type: Seminar

Bibliography: Specific readings for discussion in class will be posted on the Moodle site for the course. For a helpful non-technical introduction to recent A.I. technology, students might look at: Melanie Mitchell (2019) *Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans*, Pelican

Examination: This course will be assessed via a final term paper.

Master Colloquium (a/c)

Module 4

ECTS 5

Instructor Sabrina Bauer

Learning objectives The aim of this colloquium is to prepare students for their master thesis. Students learn how to develop, present and defend research projects, how to evaluate and criticize other student's work, and how to react on criticism. The objective is to accompany student's research work throughout the master program and to ensure student's success.

Course description In the Master Colloquium students present their own research projects, or propose recent research work by others (relevant articles, book chapters, books etc.) for discussion.

Course type Seminar

Bibliography tba.

Examination Paper presentation

Time Monday 5:30-7:00 pm

Further Information and Contact Details

Enrolment	http://www.en.uni.lu/etudiants/inscriptions_reinscriptions	
Further information	www.uni.lu/studies/flshase/master_in_modern_and_contemporary_european_philosophy_academique and http://philosophie.uni.lu	
Contact	<p>Prof. Dr. Dietmar Heidemann (Study director) dietmar.heidemann@uni.lu</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Thomas Raleigh (Head of Institute) thomas.raleigh@uni.lu</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Frank Hofmann (Deputy study director) frank.hofmann@uni.lu</p> <p>Prof. Dr. em. Lukas Sosoe (Faculty member) lukas.sosoe@uni.lu</p> <p>Dr. Aleks Knoks (Postdoctoral Researcher) aleks.knoks@uni.lu</p>	<p>Dr. Sabrina Bauer (Postdoctoral Researcher) sabrina.bauer@uni.lu</p> <p>Kieran Salt (Doctoral Researcher) kieran.salt@uni.lu</p> <p>Julian Grewe (Doctoral Researcher) julian.grewe@uni.lu</p> <p>Johan Largo (Doctoral Researcher) johan.largo@uni.lu</p> <p>Véronique Laye (Study Programme Administrator) veronique.laye@uni.lu</p>