



RTU Course "European Classical Philosophy"

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General data

Code	HFL438
Course title	European Classical Philosophy
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Course level	Post-graduate Studies
Course type	Academic
Field of study	History and Philosophy
Responsible instructor	Gunārs Ozolzīle
Academic staff	Laila Girsova
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 2.0 Credit Points, 3.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV
Annotation	Introduction to the problems of philosophy. Ancient Greek philosophy (the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle and their successors). Medieval philosophy (Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, Duns Scotus, William of Ockham). Modern philosophy (F. Bacon, Hobbes, Descartes, Spinoza, Locke, Berkeley, Hume). German criticism (Kant) and absolute idealism (Hegel). European metaphysics (teachings about existence) and rationalism (as the main method of realizing existence) achieves its highest point, developing themes in modern philosophy about substance, cognition and objectivity criterion about truth and also scientific methods of establishing them.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	Study and learn to skillfully and systematically cultivate philosophical consciousness as an essential every individual necessity, without which a formation of a human persona is impossible. Discover and evaluate the intellectual sources of European spiritual culture focusing on the unfailing resources of it. Learn to use in study process acquired thinking skills for shaping your civic stance and in practically-professional activities. Master the heritage of Latvian philosophical ideas as the most essential part of our nation's intellectual life. Also understand its contribution to the European spiritual life.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	Studies of recommended literature and preparing a thought-out commentary for the single-handedly chosen fragment of the text from a noteworthy European classical philosopher. It is necessary to become well acquainted with the chosen authors creative biography, provide a description and an assessment of the main ideas from that period, prepare and design a commentary for submission and evaluation. In due time and pro-creatively prepare for practical work in seminars accordingly to the due themes in calendar plan. Prepare for the exam.
Recommended literature	Aristotelis. Nikomaha ētika. -R.: Zvaigzne, 1985 Benedikts Spinoza. Ētika. -R.: Zvaigzne ABC, 1998 Buceniece E. Saprāts nav ilūzija. -R.: Pētergailis, 1999 Filozofija tekstu fragmentos. Sast. V. Cers. -R.: RTU, 2007 Frensis Bēkons. Jaunais organons. -R.: Zvaigzne, 1989 Ideju vēsture Latvijā. Sast. E. Buceniece. -R.: Zvaigzne ABC, 1995 Imanuēls Kants. Tīrā prāta kritika. -R.: A. Rolavs, 1931 Kūle M., Kūlis R. Filozofija. -R.: Burtnieks, 1996 Marks Aurēlijs. Pašam sev. -R.: Zvaigzne, 1991 Pirmsokrātisko domātāju darbu fragmenti. sast. M. Vecvagars. -R.: Vaga, 1994 Platons. Menons. Dzīres. -R.: Zvaigzne, 1980 Renē Dekarts. Pārruna par metodi. -R.: Zvaigzne, 1978 Interneta resursi.
Course prerequisites	The base for educational subjects in humanitarian sciences

Course outline

Theme	Hours
Prehistory of philosophical thought. Mythological consciousness and its forms	2
Western philosophical beginnings in Ancient Greece (Nature philosophy)	2
Ancient Greek high classic philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle)	4
Hellenism period in Western philosophy	2
Philosophy in Middle Ages (Christianity, Arabic philosophy)	3
Problems of modern philosophy and cognitive methods (Fr. Bacon, R. Descartes)	3
Theme of substance in modern philosophy (R. Descartes, B. Spinoza, W. Leibniz)	2
Theme of sensualism in modern philosophy (T. Hobbs, J. Lock, D. Hume)	2
Golden age of rationalism and idealism German classical philosophy (I. Kant, J. Fichte, F.V.J. Seeling, G.V.F. Hegel)	6
19th century crises in rationalism and philosophy (natural sciences and philosophy of psychology and philosophy)	4
Exam and self evaluation form	2

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Manage the main guidelines of European classical philosophy and be able to express your own well-grounded opinion on philosophy, its history and role in the European cultural process.	Successful work in seminar program. Passed exam.
Be able to list and describe the main stages of European philosophical evolution assessing them in context.	Analyses of the chosen text.
Be able to describe and illustrate philosophical rationalism and constructive interactions between separate sciences in a methodical manner in a methodological aspect using significant examples.	Successful work in seminar program.
Be able to consequently ground and defend your own world view in creative discussions with people who have different opinions.	Essays and discussions in seminars

Study subject structure

Part	CP	Hours per Week			Tests		
		Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	*		