

Institute of Philosophy
Im Moore 21
Rear building, 3rd and 4th floor
30167 Hannover



Module Catalogue

for

M.A. Philosophy of Science

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Editing & Dr. M. Feuerle
Contact Person: Tel.: 0511 / 762 – 24 34
Email: mark.feuerle@philos.uni-hannover.de

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Please note: The module descriptions in this module catalogue apply exclusively to the M.A. programme in Philosophy of Science. For other degree programmes with similar modules in philosophy, the components, prerequisites, duration, etc. of the respective module may vary. Each programme is governed by its own study regulations ("Prüfungsordnung") including subject specific appendices.

Contacts

Departmental student adviser:

Dr. Mark Feuerle

0511 / 762 – 24 34

mark.feuerle@philos.uni-hannover.de

Prof. Dr. Uljana Feest

0511 / 762 – 143 35

feest@philos.uni-hannover.de

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Hübner

0511 / 762 – 34 38

dietmar.huebner@philos.uni-hannover.de

Organization of teaching :

Dr. Mark Feuerle

0511 / 762 – 24 34

mark.feuerle@philos.uni-hannover.de

Prof. Dr. Uljana Feest

0511 / 762 – 143 35

feest@philos.uni-hannover.de

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Hübner

0511 / 762 – 34 38

dietmar.huebner@philos.uni-hannover.de

Certification of external credits:

Dr. Mark Feuerle

0511 / 762 – 24 34

mark.feuerle@philos.uni-hannover.de

BAföG representative:

Dr. Anke Büter

0511 / 762 – 30 52

anke.bueter@philos.uni-hannover.de

Dr. Mark Feuerle

0511 / 762 – 24 34

mark.feuerle@philos.uni-hannover.de

International/Erasmus representative:

M.A. Lukas Steinbrink

0511 / 762 – 24 93

lukas.steinbrink@philos.uni-hannover.de

Dr. Anke Büter

0511 / 762 – 30 52

anke.bueter@philos.uni-hannover.de

Module Type: Compulsory Module	Module Name: Core Courses	Module Code: CC
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for "Philosophy and History of the Natural Sciences" (Prof. Dr. Torsten Wilholt)	
Semester	1-2	
Frequency	Every year	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Two lecture courses of 2 weekly instruction hours each	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	10 CP; 300 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of two lecture courses.</p> <p>The lecture course "Introduction to Philosophy of Science" covers important topics and approaches from the philosophy of science. Possible topics include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • theory and evidence, confirmation theory • observation and experiment in science • representation in science (models and theories) • scientific explanation • the metaphysics of science (natural laws, scientific kinds) • theory change and rationality • realism and anti-realism in the philosophy of science • science and values • the social reality of scientific research <p>The lecture course "Formal Methods" introduces the most important formal methods applied in contemporary philosophy of science. Possible topics include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • probability theory and Bayesian epistemology • core concepts and problems of frequentist statistics • deductive logic including important metalogical results • agent based modelling 	
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to classify, describe and compare central questions and approaches of philosophy of science • be familiar with a range of central philosophical 	

	problems from philosophy of science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be familiar with important formal devices that are commonly used in philosophy of science • have gained basic abilities in applying formal techniques to the solution of problems in philosophy of science 		
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 10 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Two lecture courses	One per course	4 semester week hours (contact hours) = 60 hours; 240 hours preparation and review

Module Type: Compulsory Module	Module Name: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Mind, and Language	Module Code: MEML
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Theoretical Philosophy, particularly Philosophy of Science” (Prof. Dr. Mathias Frisch)	
Semester	1-3	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Seminars (6 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	15 CP; 450 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of seminars that cover central topics in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language. The seminar format of courses in this module fosters the development of both oral and written skills in analysing and critically discussing philosophical arguments.</p> <p>Possible topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • theories of knowledge • philosophical scepticism • Induction and inference to the best explanation • Epistemological foundationalism and coherentism • Theories of causation • Philosophy of space and time • Ontology • Philosophical accounts of necessity and possibility • The mind-body problem • The nature of consciousness • Personal Identity • Sense and reference; names and descriptions • Theories of truth • meaning and rule following 	
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to classify, describe and compare central approaches to metaphysics, epistemology, 	

	<p>philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to identify, systematize and engage with fundamental problems in metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language • be acquainted with a broader spectrum of contemporary and classical work on metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language • have developed skills in analysing and interpreting philosophical texts and arguments • have gained the capacity to apply the acquired conceptual and argumentative tools to concrete challenges facing modern societies 		
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 15 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminar	One per course	6 semester week hours (contact hours) = 90 hours; 360 hours preparation and review

Module Type: Compulsory Module	Module Name: Moral, Social and Political Philosophy	Module Code: MSPP
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for "Practical Philosophy, particularly Ethics of Science" (Prof. Dr. Dietmar Hübner)	
Semester	1-3	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Seminars (6 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	15 CP; 450 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of seminars that cover texts, authors, and central topics in moral, social and political philosophy. Possible topics might include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • metaethics (cognitivism / noncognitivism, generalism / particularism, rationalism / sensualism, internalism / externalism etc.) • normative ethics (virtue ethics, deontology, teleology / consequentialism, contractualism / contractarianism etc.) • methodological reflections on applied ethics (principlism, casuistry, reflective equilibrium, empirical ethics etc.) • social philosophy (ontology of the social realm, ethics of social relations, discourse theory, discourse analysis, norm generation, moral pluralism, power, conflicts, solidarity, discrimination etc.) • political philosophy (philosophy of rights, philosophy of the state, theories of democracy, theories of justice, specific traditions such as liberalism, Marxism, contractualism, communitarianism etc.) • action theory (action vs. behaviour, reasons vs. causes, free will, individual and collective agents, intentionality, speech acts etc.) <p>Due to the seminar format and small class sizes, the module fosters the development of competencies in both oral and written explication of philosophical arguments.</p>	

Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to classify, describe and compare central approaches to moral, social and political philosophy, including metaethics, normative ethics and methodological reflections on applied ethics • be able to identify, systematize and engage with fundamental issues in moral, social and political philosophy • be acquainted with a broader spectrum of classical and contemporary work on moral, social and political philosophy • have developed skills in the analysis and interpretation of ethical texts and arguments have gained a heightened capacity to identify concrete moral, social and political challenges in modern societies and the ability to analyse these challenges with suitable conceptual and argumentative tools 		
Final Exam	<p>Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 15 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.</p>		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminar	One per course	6 semester week hours (contact hours) = 90 hours; 360 hours preparation and review

Module Type: Compulsory Module	Module Name: Elective Module	Module Code: EM
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Philosophy of Social Science and Social Philosophy“ (Prof. Dr. Uljana Feest)	
Semester	1-2	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Seminars (6 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	15 CP; 450 hours	
Contents	<p>This module is designed to be adaptable to individual students’ background and prior training and thus allows maximal flexibility in choice of classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with prior training in philosophy but no previous exposure to university-level science classes are encouraged (but not required) to take classes in a relevant scientific field of their interest at the undergraduate level. • Students with little prior training in philosophy are encouraged (but not required) to take introductory philosophy classes (such as introduction to ethics, history of philosophy and/or epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind and language) at the undergraduate level. • International students who do not have the requisite level of German to enroll in introductory science or philosophy classes in German should seek out philosophy or science classes (at either the undergraduate or graduate level) that are taught in English. 	
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have acquired and developed skills in applying basic methods of philosophical analysis (conceptual analysis, argumentative strategies, ethical and epistemological categorization) to central aspects of specific scientific fields (research programs, empirical methods, hypothesis formation) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to identify philosophically relevant (ethical and/or epistemological and metaphysical) questions that arise within specific scientific fields and to develop philosophical responses to these questions • be able to identify ethical problems of current social and political developments that are related to specific scientific fields. 		
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 15 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminar	One per course	6 semester week hours (contact hours) = 90 hours; 360 hours preparation and review

Module Type: Compulsory Module	Module Name: Project Module	Module Code: PM
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Philosophy of Biology” (Prof. Dr. Thomas Reydon)	
Semester	1	
Frequency	Every year	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Project Seminar Project Week	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	15 CP; 450 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of a Project Seminar and a Project Week, both aimed at the development of participants’ competencies with respect to academic research, management of collaborative academic research projects, and presentation of the results of research projects. Focus lies on core academic research competencies as well as competencies that are essential for a non-academic career path.</p> <p>The Project Seminar encompasses an introduction to working in collaborative projects (e.g., planning research projects, setting up work plans, managing interdisciplinary collaborations), a reflection on the aims and methods of philosophy of science as an area of academic research, and exercises in academic literacy. Participants will work in small project groups to become acquainted with structural aspects and challenges of doing academic research in collaborative settings.</p> <p>In the Project Week, the competencies gained from the Project Seminar will be deepened further by means of various kinds of smaller activities during that week. Guest speakers will provide insight into career options both within and outside academia. During the Project Week, students and instructors will be immersed in an intensive program that encompasses student presentations, work in small groups and close, personal supervision of students by the team of instructors.</p>	

	<p>Possible topics in both the Project Seminar and the Project Week include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • literature research competencies, in particular with respect to digital resources • working in interdisciplinary projects • time management and project management • rhetoric and advanced presentation skills • ethical and practical issues in academic publishing (including peer reviewing, editorial tasks, and good practice in academic publishing) • critical thinking and argumentation 		
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to independently survey the state of the art in a new area of philosophical debate and to orient themselves in the debate • be able to plan and carry out philosophical research projects, and to evaluate and reflect on how the project proceeded • be able to develop a professional philosophical expert opinion on topics in politics, society, etc. • be able to present the results of philosophical research clearly and efficiently for both academic and non-academic audiences • be able to develop their own position with respect to philosophical problems, debates, and positions of other philosophers 		
Final Exam	<p>Written project report (15-20 pages). The 15 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of the coursework of the Project Seminar and the Project Week, and passing of the final exam (project report).</p>		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminar Project Week	One per course	6 semester week hours (contact hours) = 90 hours; 360 hours of preparation and review

Module Type: Required Elective Module	Module Name: Ethics and Philosophy of Science	Module Code: EPS
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Philosophy and History of the Natural Sciences” (Prof. Dr. Torsten Wilhot)	
Semester	2-3	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Seminars (4 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	10 CP; 300 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of seminars that cover texts, authors, or central topics from ethics and philosophy of science. Possible topics include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of values in scientific research • research ethics • the ethics of scientific communication; ethical and political problems concerning the public understanding of science • the political philosophy of science • the social epistemology of science • the role of evidence in science (confirmation theory, problems of inductive reasoning, the epistemology of data use) • the scope of scientific knowledge (realism and anti-realism, scientific explanation and understanding in science, causal knowledge) <p>Due to the seminar format and small class sizes, the module fosters the development of competencies in the oral and written analysis of philosophical arguments.</p>	
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to classify, describe and compare central questions and approaches within ethics and philosophy of science • be familiar with a range of central philosophical problems at the intersection of ethics and philosophy of science 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have gained skills in the analysis and interpretation of relevant philosophical texts that reflect on ethics and philosophy of science • have gained the ability to apply conceptual approaches from ethics and philosophy of science to practical and societal concerns regarding the aims and means of scientific research 		
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 10 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminar	One per course	4 semester week hours (contact hours) = 60 hours; 240 hours of preparation and review

Module Type: Required Elective Module	Module Name: Philosophy of the Physical Sciences	Module Code: PPS
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Theoretical Philosophy, particularly Philosophy of Science” (Prof. Dr. Mathias Frisch)	
Semester	2-3	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Seminars (4 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	10 CP; 300 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of seminars that cover texts, authors, or central topics from the philosophy of the physical sciences. Possible topics include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the philosophy of space and time • philosophical problems in quantum mechanics (such as the measurement problem and the problem of entanglement) and interpretations of quantum mechanics • philosophy of statistical physics (the asymmetry of time, reductionism and emergence) • philosophy of climate science and climate change (including both epistemological problems of climate science and ethical problems of climate change) • philosophy of computer simulation • philosophy of the geosciences <p>Due to the seminar format and small class sizes, the module fosters the development of competencies in the oral and written analysis of philosophical arguments.</p>	
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to classify, describe and compare central questions and approaches within the philosophy of the physical sciences, broadly construed. • be familiar with a range of central philosophical problems at the intersection of philosophy and the physical sciences. • be able, in a non-technical manner, to understand 	

	<p>and situate central concepts, arguments and theories in the physical sciences as they relate to philosophical problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have gained skills in the analysis and interpretation of relevant philosophical texts that reflect on the physical sciences. • have gained the ability to analyze and evaluate conceptual approaches in the physical sciences with regard to both their theoretical and practical significance 		
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 10 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminar	One per course	4 semester week hours (contact hours) = 60 hours; 240 hours of preparation and review

Module Type: Required Elective Module	Module Name: History and Philosophy of the Human Sciences	Module Code: HPHS
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Philosophy of Social Science and Social Philosophy“ (Prof. Dr. Uljana Feest)	
Semester	2-3	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Seminars (4 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	10 CP; 300 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of seminars that cover texts, authors, or central topics from the philosophy and history of the human and social sciences. Possible topics might include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the methodology and epistemology of the human and social sciences (forms of explanation and observation, hermeneutics, functionalism, methodological individualism/holism, realism, social constructivism, participant observation, etc.) • the metaphysics of the human and social sciences the autonomy of the social realm, social ontology, cognitive ontology, etc.) • decision theory and philosophy of action (prospect theory, bounded rationality, game theory, etc.) • the intellectual history of the human and social sciences and history of the philosophy (HOPOS) of the human and social sciences (history of psychology, political science, economics, historiography, etc.) • value-freedom vs. value-ladenness of social research (critical theory, feminist approaches, etc.) • ethical aspects of research in the human and social sciences <p>Due to the seminar format and small class sizes, the module fosters the development of competencies in the oral and written explication of philosophical arguments.</p>	
Learning	Upon completion of this module, students should	

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to classify, describe and compare central questions and approaches within the philosophy and history of the human and social sciences • be familiar with central concepts, arguments and theories in the human and social sciences • be able to situate central concepts, arguments and theories of the human and social sciences in their historical contexts and reflect about them philosophically • have gained skills in the analysis and interpretation of relevant philosophical texts that reflect on the human and social sciences • have gained the ability to analyze and evaluate the conceptual approaches and investigative strategies of the human and social sciences (including, but not limited to, political science, historiography, psychology and economics) with regard to their theoretical and practical significance 		
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 10 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminar	One per course	4 semester week hours (contact hours) = 60 hours; 240 hours of preparation and review

Module Type: Required Elective Module	Module Name: Philosophy of the Life Sciences	Module Code: PLS
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Philosophy of Biology” (Prof. Dr. Thomas Reydon)	
Semester	2-3	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	Seminars (4 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	10 CP; 300 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of seminars that cover texts, authors, or central topics from the philosophy of the life sciences. Possible topics include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • philosophical and conceptual problems in evolutionary theory (for example the debates surrounding the concepts of selection, fitness, the nature of evolutionary biology as a science, the structure of evolutionary explanations) • philosophical and conceptual problems in taxonomy and systematic biology (such as the species problem, the reality of biological taxa, and philosophical problems regarding phylogenetics) • philosophical and conceptual problems in genetics and genomics (such as the nature and classification of genes, genetic causation, the concept of genetic information) • ethical issues following from applications of new biotechnologies, and the connections between such ethical issues and issues in the philosophy of science • philosophical and ethical questions surrounding biodiversity, nature conservation and the environment • philosophical and ethical questions regarding agriculture and food <p>Due to the seminar format and small class sizes, the</p>	

	module fosters the development of competencies in the oral and written analysis of philosophical arguments.		
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to describe and compare central questions and approaches within the philosophy of the life sciences, broadly construed • be familiar with a range of central philosophical problems at the intersection of philosophy and the life sciences • be able to understand and situate central concepts, arguments and theories in the life sciences as they relate to philosophical problems • have gained skills in the analysis and interpretation of relevant philosophical texts that reflect on the life sciences • have gained the ability to analyze and evaluate conceptual approaches in the life sciences with regard to both their theoretical and practical significance 		
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 10 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminar	One set per course	4 semester week hours (contact hours) = 60 hours; 240 hours of preparation and review

Module Type: Required Elective Module	Module Name: Specialisation Module with Systematic Focus	Module Code: VMs
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Theoretical Philosophy, particularly Philosophy of Science” (Prof. Dr. Mathias Frisch)	
Semester	2-3	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	2 seminars or 1 lecture + 1 seminar (4 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	10 CP; 300 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of seminars or lectures aimed at providing an advanced understanding of different philosophical topics. Courses within this module engage in in depth systematic investigations of specific philosophical issues within any area of philosophy.</p> <p>The seminar format of courses in this module fosters the development of both oral and written skills in analysing and critically discussing philosophical arguments.</p>	
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have an advanced understanding of one or more core philosophical issues and problems • be able to comprehend philosophical texts and be able to reconstruct and critically analyse philosophical arguments • be able independently to develop philosophical arguments engaging critically with the relevant literature • be able to situate the issues in question within a broader context and, when appropriate, be able to connect philosophical approaches to these problems with contemporary issues of social and political relevance 	
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 10 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.	

	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
Courses	Seminars and lectures	One per course	4 semester week hours (contact hours) = 60 hours; 240 hours of preparation and review

Module Type: Required Elective Module	Module Name: Specialisation Module with Historical Focus	Module Code: VMh
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for “Practical Philosophy, particularly Ethics of Science” (Prof. Dr. Dietmar Hübner)	
Semester	2-3	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	None	
Components	2 seminars or 1 lecture + 1 seminar (4 weekly instruction hours total)	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	10 CP; 300 hours	
Contents	<p>This module consists of seminars that cover texts, authors, or central topics from circumscribed periods of philosophical thinking. Possible eras might include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ancient Greek and Roman philosophy (pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Cicero, Seneca, Marc Aurelius etc.) • late antiquity and Middle Ages (St. Augustine, Anselm of Canterbury, Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas, William of Ockham, Duns Scotus etc.) • early modern period and Enlightenment (Descartes, Hobbes, Leibniz, Spinoza, Locke, Hume, Rousseau, Kant etc.) • 19th century (Fichte, Schelling, Hegel, Marx, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Mill, Frege, Husserl etc.) • 20th century (Vienna Circle, Popper, Russell, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, Jaspers, Arendt, Sartre, Foucault etc.) <p>The module aims to familiarize students with the historical developments in scholarly philosophy, including characteristic topics, genres, concepts, arguments, traditions and schools of various periods. The seminars will emphasize key events, influences, innovations and shifts in thought in the historical period in question, taking account of the relevant scientific, political and social context. Due to the seminar format and small class sizes, the module fosters the development of competencies in both</p>	

	oral and written explication of philosophical arguments.		
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to identify, reproduce and classify specific questions and approaches within circumscribed periods of philosophical thinking • be able to adequately situate philosophical problems within their historical context and to critically assess philosophical contributions with regard to their historical impact • be able to discern the systematic meaning and historical significance of hitherto unknown texts from circumscribed philosophical periods • have gained the capacity to engage with scholarly debates on a given philosophical era, and be able to extend their knowledge independently • have developed historical areas of interest, and be able to communicate their specific contents and relate them to systematic questions 		
Final Exam	Oral exam (30 minutes) or term paper (15-20 pages). The 10 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of all coursework and the final exam.		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Seminars and lectures	One per course	4 semester week hours (contact hours) = 60 hours; 240 hours of preparation and review

Module Type: Master's Thesis	Module Name: Master's Thesis	Module Code:
Institution	Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover	
Person Responsible	Chair for "Philosophy of Social Science and Social Philosophy" (Prof. Dr. Uljana Feest)	
Semester	3-4	
Frequency	Every semester	
Prerequisites	60 CP	
Components	1 Colloquium Master's Thesis	
Credit Points (CP) and Workload	30 CP; 900 hours	
Contents	<p>The module consists of (a) a colloquium in which students present a philosophical research topic of their own choice or as set by the instructor and (b) an MA thesis on said topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The colloquium is intended as a "workshop" where students can try out and develop their ideas, approaches, questions, and main arguments at an early stage of thinking about their MA theses and to discuss them with other participants of the colloquium. Thus, this class offers students an opportunity to discuss methodological and substantial questions concerning their own research. Students are not expected to be able to defend philosophical theses at this point. Rather the class is intended to help and support students in identifying their research topics and developing their own ideas. Due to the preliminary character of this colloquium, research can be presented already during the third semester or at the beginning of the fourth semester. • The MA thesis consists in completion of a written work according to accepted academic standards. The topic should be chosen independently by the student, but students should seek out the advice and mentoring of their primary advisor. Topics can be chosen from any of the modules taken in the course of the degree program. Students are expected to 	

	<p>apply the argumentative and interpretive methods and competencies acquired in the project module (PM) as well as all other classes taken in the course of the degree program. The MA thesis is typically completed during the fourth semester.</p>		
Learning Objectives	<p>Upon completion of this module, students should be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independently analyze a philosophical problem within a set time period according to accepted academic standards • make a contribution to a philosophical debate • present a philosophical research question orally • present their research in the form of a written thesis 		
Final Exam	<p>MA thesis (50-80 pages). The 30 credit points are awarded upon successful completion of the colloquium and the MA thesis.</p>		
Courses	Type	Coursework (pass/fail)	Workload/time investment
	Colloquium	Presentation of MA thesis topic	2 semester week hours (contact hours) = 30 hours; 870 hours preparation