

Course Outline KULIS

Course title	What is thinking?
Date/duration	Fall 2021
Lecturer	Asst. Prof. Aloisia Moser, Ph.D.
Teaching language	English
ECTS	3 ECTS

Contents

1. The subject of thinking
2. The object of thought
3. What do we think with? The mind.
4. What do we think with? The body.
5. What do we think with? Memory.
6. What do we think with? Imagination.
7. Do we need truth for thinking? Is knowing and thinking the same?
8. Do we need things in the world for thinking?
9. We build a model of thinking.
10. Which philosophical theories or models of thinking are there?
11. Review of philosophical terminology
12. Writing Workshop

Learning outcomes

The aim of this course is to involve philosophy students in active philosophical thinking as opposed to present them with the result of the thinking of philosophers of the tradition. The outcome of the course should be for the students to have developed a philosophical vocabulary to understand what is involved in thinking. The aim of the course is to provide students with a working account of what the mind is, what world is, what theories of thinking there are.

Teaching and learning methods

In this lecture I give a short but succinct introduction to thinking by turning around the lecture format. Instead of lecturing first and discussing afterwards, I will invite students to jump into the process of thinking and build up with the materials of the lecture through that. At the end of each lecture, I give a short summary of what I prepared the lecture to be about. A challenge of this format is that while we focus on one aspect of thinking, all the other aspects need to be presupposed.

Course preparation

Buckingham, W. *The Philosophy Book. Big Ideas Simply Explained*. DK Publishing, 2011.
Craig, E. *Philosophy. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2002.
Critchley, S. *Continental Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2001.
Nagel, T. *What does it all mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy*. Oxford University Press, 1987.

Additional literature

Excerpts of Platos *Theaitetos*
Descartes' *Second Mediations*
Hume Excerpts of the *Treatise of Human Nature* and *On Personal identity*
Husserl Excerpts of *Basic Problems of Philosophy*
Tim Crane Excerpts of *The Object of Thought*
Putnam *Brain in the Vat*
Sartre Excerpts of *On Imagination*
Kant Excerpts of *Critique of Pure Reason*

Assessment (%)

(methods of examination, requirements for awarding credit points)

Two short essays in a final exam

Contact details (lecturer)

Aloisia Moser, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Bethlehemstrasse 20, 4020 Linz.
Room 310
Tel: +43 732 78 42 93 4183
Email: a.moser@ku-linz.at