

SPECIALTY PHILOSOPHY

MASTER PROGRAMME: PHILOSOPHY

Educational and qualification degree: MASTER

Professional qualification: MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Study period: 2 years / 4 semesters

Study mode: full-time

QUALIFICATION CHARACTERISTIC

1. General characteristics and educational objective of the master's program

The program is intended for graduates of the Educational and Qualification Degree – “Bachelor” and Educational and Qualification Degree – “Master” in other professional fields. The Master's program aims to introduce students to the fundamental theories and genesis of philosophical knowledge, providing them with a solid base of theoretical knowledge in philosophy, as well as improving their skills and competences for analysis, problematization and creativity. Students trained in the specialty “Philosophy” – Master's program in Philosophy, prepare for teaching, research, journalistic and other types of specialized activities for work as experts on socio-political issues and consultants to library and publishing centers. During their studies, students also acquire skills and competences for teaching and consulting in the field of philosophical knowledge.

Professional competence and realization

The “Master's” qualification degree enables successful implementation in prestigious areas of public life such as education, politics, social management, social strategies for development and professional implementation as experts and advisors to state and private institutions, as well as to specialized centers of state departments. According to the National Classifier of Professions and Positions, those who have obtained a Master's degree in Philosophy have opportunities for professional realization as specialists: philosophers, teachers of the philosophical cycle, experts in state institutions in the field of education and other fields, specialists in social work and counseling, journalists, writers and others.

The acquired qualification “Master of Philosophy” must possess in-depth philosophical knowledge and excellent linguistic and cultural training, use modern means of communication, and orient themselves in the relevant intellectual and social trends.

For this purpose, students must master the conceptual apparatus, the methodological approach and the basic knowledge in the field of:

- > History of philosophy: Ancient philosophy, Eastern philosophy, Medieval philosophy, Early Modern Philosophy – XVII-XVIII centuries, Modern Philosophy – XIX century, Contemporary philosophy;
- > Logic, ethics, aesthetics, ontology, epistemology;
- > Social philosophy, philosophy of history, anthropology, philosophy of science;
- > Philosophy of religion, hermeneutics, phenomenology.

The graduate of the Educational and Qualification Degree – “Master” will be able to:

- to apply acquired knowledge, such as methodology and theory, in their specific activity;
- to navigate modern scientific and social trends and to analyze and propose heuristic, theoretical and practical solutions.

The training creates opportunities and educational prerequisites for continuing studies in the Doctoral degree.

2. Organization and structure of education

The developed study documentation is in accordance with the latest trends in the academic training of specialists in contemporary problems and trends in philosophy, as well as in philosophy education, especially in secondary school. During its preparation, both national and international experience in this field was taken into account. It corresponds to the accepted standards for professional training of Masters'. The training lasts 2 years /four semesters/. The Master's program has been compiled in such a way as to ensure coherence, consistency and thematic connection between the envisaged study disciplines.

Curriculum for non-specialists

The curriculum is divided into four semesters with a total of 1110 hours, which are equal to 120 ECTS credits. The hours are distributed by semesters as follows: first semester – 240 hours, second semester – 360 hours, third semester – 300 hours, fourth semester – 210 hours.

The curriculum covers historical-philosophical, theoretical and practical-philosophical disciplines. It includes compulsory and optional subjects. Compulsory subjects (870 hours) give a total of 83 ECTS credits. They provide in-depth scientific-theoretical and specialized training, gradually introducing and ensuring training and mastery of the entire field of philosophy. The compulsory study subjects are: Ancient Philosophy, Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, Ontology, Ethics, Modern Philosophy, Epistemology, Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Science, Aesthetics, Contemporary Philosophy, Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophical Logic. Optional subjects (240 hours) give a total of 22 ECTS credits. Through them, the knowledge, skills and competences obtained within the framework of the compulsory study disciplines are enriched and specialized. Students choose four out of eight possible optionals.

Any student can study any course taught at the university, regardless of the faculty in which it is studied /in accordance with Art. 2, Paragraph 5 of the Ordinance on State Requirements for the Acquisition of Higher Education, published in SG no. 76 /2002/. Total horary of the selected optional courses – up to 10% of the total horary.

Students graduate with a written state exam or with the defense of a master's thesis, for which 15 ECTS are acquired with a positive result.

3. Correspondence with the mission of the SWU “Neofit Rilski”

The implementation of the Master's program “Philosophy” corresponds to the mission of the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” and the Faculty of Philosophy, their goals and strategies, stems from the new dimensions of higher education in Bulgaria and the tasks for the full inclusion of the country in international educational processes. The program complies with national and European standards, as well as with the requirements and specifics of the region in which the South-West University “Neofit Rilski” is located.

The qualification characteristics of the specialty “Philosophy” for the Educational and Qualification Degree – “Master” with the professional qualification “Master of Philosophy” is a basic document that determines the development of the curriculum and study programs. It complies with the Higher Education Act, the Classifier of Higher Education Fields and Professional Fields, the Ordinance on the State Requirements for the Acquisition of Higher Education at the Bachelor's, Master's and Specialist Degrees (SG No. 76 of 6.08.2002), the National Classification of Positions and Professions, the Regulations for the Organization and Activities of the South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, the Regulations for Educational Activities, etc. normative documents of the university.

STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

First year			
First semester	ECTS credits	Second semester	ECTS credits
Ancient philosophy	8	Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy	5
Introduction in philosophy	7	Ontology	
Logics	8	Modern Philosophy	5
Optional subject from first group	7	Ethics	5
		Epistemology	5
		Optional subject from second group	5
	Total 30		Total 30
Second year			
Third semester		Fourth semester	
Philosophy of history	6	Contemporary philosophy	4
Philosophy of science	6	Philosophical anthropology	4
Classical German Philosophy	6	Philosophical logic	3
Aesthetics	6	Optional subject from fourth group	4
Optional subject from third group	6	Thesis defense or written state exam	15
	Total 30		Total 30
Optional subjects /first group/ <i>Students choose one subject</i>	ECTS credits	Optional subjects /second group/ <i>Students choose one subject</i>	ECTS credits
Eastern philosophy	7	Philosophy of history	5
Phenomenology	7	Philosophical discourse	5
Optional subjects /third group/ <i>Students choose one subject</i>	ECTS credits	Optional subjects /fourth group/ <i>Students choose one subject</i>	ECTS credits
Psychoanalysis	6	Philosophical and scientific rationality	4
Social philosophy	6	Hermeneutics	4
TOTAL FOR 2 ACADEMIC YEARS: 120 CREDITS			

ANNOTATION OF COURSES

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS/COURSES

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 8

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Antoaneta Nikolova-Georgieva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: anikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The aim of the course is to acquaint students with the main directions, schools and philosophers of ancient philosophical thought, with the main philosophical ideas and problems, with the laws and tendencies of the development of philosophy in Antiquity; to form an understanding of historicity and logic, a skill for a critical and creative attitude to the ancient philosophical heritage; to develop the ability to work on individual texts and entire works of the classics of Greek philosophy.

Course content:

Factors for the emergence of philosophical thought in ancient Greece, the teachings of Heraclitus, understanding the essence of movement as a basic philosophical category. Comprehension of the essence of Democritus' views on man and society, detailed introduction and assimilation of the main concepts of classical ancient Greek philosophy with representatives of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

Teaching and assessment:

Semester exam includes: a paper on theoretical question from a predefined syllabus. Criteria on which to evaluate the written paper are: the sake of completeness, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision. The course ends with examination syllabus in writing.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 7

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Dimitrov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences,

Assoc. Prof. Silviya Kristeva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Email: ivaylo.dimitrov@swu.bg, silvia_kristeva@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course introduces students to the field of philosophy and defines its subject matter.

The projects for a system of philosophy are outlined. The self-formed philosophical sciences and those scientific fields born from the modern thematic interests of philosophy are traced. With basic problems, terms and ideas, key philosophers from the genesis of modern philosophical development to the present day are introduced. Specific philosophical methods are considered, which are the basis for independent branches of philosophy. The course concludes with projections to contemporary global society and the state and future of philosophy.

Course content:

The aim of the course is to introduce students first of all to the subject and field of philosophy, to the specifics of theoretical philosophical knowledge, to create understanding and mastery of the basic toolkit of terms and methods of philosophy. The emphasis of the course is to outline the horizons before the contemporary state of philosophy and to unfold the fundamental problem for the system of pure philosophy.

Teaching and assessment:

Training in the discipline is carried out through lectures and supervised extracurricular work. The final grade in the discipline includes the marks on both the tests and the written works and is formed after a written exam.

LOGIC

ECTS credits: 8

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Silviya Kristeva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: silvia.kristeva@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

During the course, students gradually become familiar with the main theoretical cores of traditional logic and move through the corpus of concepts and schematics on the main forms of thinking. Concept theory, theory of judgment, theory of inference are followed in detail and the course of definition, structure and basic types. The foundations and modeling of the classical system of propositional logic are laid. The course also introduces students to the contemporary and most provocative ideas in logic research.

Course content:

The Logic course aims to master the specifics of logical forms in comprehensiveness and excellent technical applicability. To work for the complete and adequate use and reflexive accounting and normalization of logical forms in real thinking and knowledge. At the same time, the logic course aims to introduce the problematic points in logical theory and to demonstrate the points of contact with general philosophical issues and the work of logicians of the rank of Aristotle, Kant, Hegel. Logic training also aims to prepare future teachers in this discipline studied in secondary schools by deepening the knowledge and understanding of the material at a high academic level.

Teaching and assessment:

Semester exam includes: a paper on theoretical question from a predefined syllabus.

Criteria on which to evaluate the written paper are: the completeness of presented knowledge, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision.

The course ends with a written exam on syllabus.

MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 5

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Iva Manova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: iva.manova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course familiarizes students with the main trends and schools of medieval philosophical thought, with its main regularities. The aim of the course is to acquaint students with the general development of philosophical thought during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Course content:

The place of medieval philosophy in the history of world philosophical thought, Metaphysical problems in the teaching of bl. Augustine, Teachings of Boethius, Philosophy of Anselm of Canterbury, Ethics of Pierre Abelard, Theoretical Dimensions of Islam.

Teaching and assessment:

Semester exam includes: a paper on theoretical question from a predefined syllabus.

Criteria on which to evaluate the written paper are: the completeness of presented knowledge, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision.

The course ends with a written exam on syllabus.

ONTOLOGY

ECTS credits: 5

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Dimitrov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences,

Assoc. Prof. Silviya Kristeva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Email: ivaylo.dimitrov@swu.bg, silvia_kristeva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course is designed to introduce students to one of the fundamental own sciences of philosophy – the science of being, ontology. Students are gradually introduced to the genesis of the concept of being, the ontological models of Antiquity, the Middle Ages, the Modernity, and contemporary philosophy. On the basis of Hegel's systematic ontology, a detailed and large-scale tracking and assimilation of the ontological categories and pure models of ontological objects and constructions is carried out: ontology of quality, quantity, thing, reflection, the absolute, the totality, the absolute idea.

Course content:

The course takes students through the entire development of ontological issues, so that they actively work with the ontological models and constructions that have flown in the course of philosophy. The aim is also to highlight and make sense of the actual ontological categories by building a systematic register of terms and subject constructions and to actively and heuristically connect them with specific concepts from philosophical systems throughout the ages. The overall research task of the course is the construction of the general theoretical platform of the ontology.

Teaching and assessment:

Student training includes lectures and seminars accompanied by talks and discussions. Total number of lecture hours 30, number of seminar hours 30. During the course, each student must develop a thesis on one of the topics determined for seminar classes.

ETHICS

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Antoaneta Nikolova-Georgieva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: anikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The discipline is closely related to the general philosophical solutions given by epistemology and ontology, as well as to the problems of the essence of man, considered by philosophical anthropology. The ethical aspects of these decisions place the discipline in close proximity to philosophy of religion and aesthetics. This underscores the importance of an ethics course that acquaints students with the historical development and current state of ethical scholarship. Objectives of the course: 1. Enriching the students' theoretical foundation of knowledge and their modern way of thinking, which includes adequate orientation in the many faces of morality. 2. A comprehensive representation of the moral world. 3. Stimulating interest and forming an attitude towards ethical concepts and issues, without necessarily pursuing educational goals and making the ethics course dependent on them. 4. Building students' skills for independent development and interpretation of ethical issues, as well as the application of these skills in solving professional tasks.

Course content:

Nature of ethical relations. A history of ethics. Basic categories of ethics: good, evil. The moral world of man.

Teaching and assessment:

The course grade is formed on the basis of current and final grades. Current grades are formed by the results of development of a written work or thematic essay, attendance at lectures and seminars, quality of work during the seminars. The evaluation of the written exam is based on the following criteria: knowledge of the concepts of the individual authors; ability to compare philosophical theses; range of ideas on which the student dwelled.

MODERN PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Iva Manova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences,
Chief Assist. Prof. Nevena Krumova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and

Political Sciences

E-mail: iva.manova@swu.bg, nevena_krumova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The Modern Philosophy covers a period with chronological boundaries of the 17th – 19th centuries and presents the ontological, epistemological, cosmological and socio-political views of some of the most significant philosophers. All this is the own philosophical and methodological basis of modern philosophy. The discipline expands the philosophical horizon by giving a more complete picture of the views of individual philosophers and schools, but also presents a palette of worldviews about the history of humanity and its possibilities for future development. Studying the course aims to familiarize students with the history of philosophy in the modern era and to prepare for the study of Classical German philosophy.

Course content:

The study course is made up of four modules. The first examines the transition from Renaissance philosophy to Modern philosophy. In the second, the development of rationalist philosophy /Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz/ is examined. The third module traces the development of the philosophy of empiricism /Bacon, Hobbes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume/, Enlightenment philosophy and French materialism. The fourth module introduces central philosophers and their main ideas from the 19th century – mainly philosophy of life /Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche/.

Teaching and assessment:

Students take one control test in each of the two semesters. The requirements for certification of the semester are regular attendance at classes, completion of assigned tasks in the absence of more than two classes, and an average score of 3.00 on the control test.

EPISTEMOLOGY

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Dimitrov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences,

Chief Assist. Prof. Ivo Minkov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: ivaylo.dimitrov@swu.bg, iminkov@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The epistemology course introduces students to the typicality, features and technology of philosophical knowledge issues. It permeates all readings in philosophy and forms one of the cores of undergraduate philosophy studies.

Course content:

The course is divided into two modules: 1) Conceptual problems of epistemology; 2) Epistemologems. The first module deals with general issues of the theory of knowledge. They are presented in a systematic plan, starting from the simplest cognitive act of Subject-Object relation. Its essence and limits are thoroughly examined. The need for theoretical and scientific knowledge is justified. Philosophical knowledge is analyzed not only as a peak in the hierarchy of types of knowledge, but also in a broad logical, cultural, semiotic and social perspective. Theories of truth are the last division in the system of epistemology. The second module is dedicated to global, general and specific philosophical knowledge systems. They are considered in a historical-philosophical plan, thus not only establishing a connection with the historical-philosophical readings, but also detailing the knowledge of the history of epistemology. On the basis of what was learned from the first module, the philosophical knowledge schematics are typologized. The objectives of the course are general and specialized. Students enrich their knowledge, learn to think quickly and make quick decisions, to effectively navigate the multiple types of truth.

Teaching and assessment:

Lectures are held according to the ancient university tradition *ex cathedra*. Extracurricular employment includes students' independent work with texts, preparation for conferences, student publications and exams. It implies creative development, preparation of independent author's texts. An evaluation organization has been developed, including the type of written exam and the interview (only if necessary), complex evaluation criteria, ways to collect credits, conditions for admission to the exam, the possibility of exemption from the exam, a six-point knowledge evaluation system.

PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY**ECTS credits:** 6

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: III**Methodical guide:****Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences**

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Ivo Minkov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political SciencesE-mail: iminkov@swu.bg**Annotation:**

Philosophy of history is a branch of philosophy related to the interpretation of historical processes and knowledge. In different periods of its existence, the philosophy of history deals either with the most general theory of historical development, or with the formulation of meaning and goals, driving forces and factors in the historical process. The force governing history has different "faces" – divine providence, universal reason, natural laws, impersonal fate, man. The philosophy of history also poses the problems of progress and regression in society, of the unity of the historical process and its diversity.

Course content:

The course includes ideas about the cyclical development of society from antiquity (Hesiod) to the present day – Sorokin and Toynbee, views according to which history develops linearly (Augustine, Kant, Hegel), conflicting theories of historical development (Marx, Dahrendorf), ideas about the "End of History" (Fukuyama), providential concepts (Augustine, Bossuet) and scientific – reflecting the modern level of development of physics and cosmology for the development of humanity in a global cosmological plan. Also included are some views of

philosophers with bright and original solutions to the problem of the development and future of society.

Teaching and assessment:

The semester exam covers: written development of a theoretical question from a pre-set syllabus – determined by an exam ticket drawn by the student; The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision.

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

ECTS credits: 6

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Prof. Boris Manov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences,

Chief Assist. Prof. Ivo Minkov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political

Sciences

E-mail: bmanov@swu.bg, iminkov@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The lecture course has an interdisciplinary orientation, focused entirely in the field of history and philosophy of science. Knowledge of the history of science contributes to the understanding of the role of philosophy in the formation of science. Therefore, separate lectures are devoted to the interrelationships between history and philosophy of mathematics, history and philosophy of physics, history and philosophy of biology. In the unity with the historical aspect of the sciences, the significance of their philosophical and critical interpretation crystallizes. Emphasis is placed on methodological constructs in the sciences, as well as on their underlying assumptions and claims. Particular attention is paid to the questions “where is science headed?”, “what is its future?”.

Course content:

The educational material presents the concepts of world-renowned philosophers of science and at the same time forms a comprehensive view of the theoretical-cognitive and value aspects of the phenomenon of science. Students to understand the interrelationships between history and philosophy of science, in the perspective of modernity and current problems facing humanity.

Teaching and assessment:

During their studies during the semester, students take two tests and prepare at least one paper for presentation. The semester is certified by regular attendance at lectures, the presentation of at least one report and an average success rate of at least 3.00 on the tests.

CLASSICAL GERMAN PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 6

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Dimitrov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences,

Chief Assist. Prof. Ivo Minkov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: ivaylo.dimitrov@swu.bg, iminkov@swu.bg

Annotation:

Classical German philosophy is a kind of peak in philosophy in general. There is hardly any other period in the development of philosophy when it had such a violent immanent rise, such a strong methodological importance compared to other sciences and such a strong social resonance. It can rightly be said that German classical philosophy is the acme of philosophizing in general. Unlike many other periods in the history of philosophy, dating the beginnings of Classical German philosophy is unproblematic. At the beginning is Kant.

Course content:

The course begins with Wolff's philosophy, which is a sort of transition between classical rationalist and empiricist philosophizing and classical German philosophy within the Enlightenment. The latter, as well as Protestantism as a relatively new denomination, exerted a powerful influence on the formation of German classics. All of these conditions and influences are examined in relation to a broader vision of the German classics, ushering in a non-classical development of philosophizing of its own. The distinction between a broad and a narrow understanding of the German classics is drawn. The second is limited to Kant, Fichte, Schelling and Hegel, and the first also includes the romantics, Herder, Hamann, Schleiermacher, Jacobi, Maimon, the first Kantians and Hegelians. The focus of the course falls on the teachings of Kant, Fichte, Schelling and Hegel, which are examined thoroughly and systematically. It is known that these teachings have internal periodizations, with individual cycles and compositions having a non-transitory character. They are analyzed in the most detail, without, of course, forgetting the other works.

Teaching and assessment:

Lectures are held according to the ancient university tradition *ex cathedra*. Extracurricular employment includes students' independent work with texts, preparation for conferences, student publications and exams. It implies creative development, preparation of independent author's texts. An evaluation organization has been developed, including the type of written exam and the interview (only if necessary), complex evaluation criteria, ways to collect credits, conditions for admission to the exam, the possibility of exemption from the exam, a six-point knowledge evaluation system.

AESTHETICS

ECTS credits: 6

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Sylviya Borissova-Spasova, Ph.D., BAS

Email: sylvia.borissova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course in Aesthetics corresponds to the content of the entire block of studies in History of Philosophy, as well as to the aesthetic aspects of studies in the other compulsory

disciplines. On the one hand, it completes the theoretical foundation of student knowledge in terms of its classical subject orientation – the problem of beauty, possible approaches to its appearance, phenomenology of beauty. On the other hand, based on its kinship with the world of art, the course in aesthetics is fertile ground for making sense of acquired professional knowledge and skills in a significant sphere of public life – artistry, with its endless forms of manifestation.

Course content:

Acquaintance with key ideas in the history of aesthetics and outline the leading lines in the aesthetics of the 20th century. Getting to know the main aesthetic categories and some of the main problems of the philosophy of art.

Teaching and assessment:

Training in the discipline is carried out through lectures and seminars on topics from the curriculum, as well as through supervised extracurricular work. The lecture course is traditional, but also includes interactive methods and multimedia. The seminars are held on a broader methodological basis - talks, discussions, debate, discussion, associative method, discussion of works of art, independent and collective work on the educational material. In each of the two semesters, one test is conducted on the main concepts derived from the content of the curriculum topics. Students also develop five written works during the training in the discipline. The final grade in the discipline includes the grades on both the tests and the written works and is formed after a written exam.

CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Gergana Popova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: gerp@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course in Contemporary Philosophy aims to acquaint students with the significant philosophical problems of the last century – ontological, epistemological, anthropological, moral, socio-political. Through its separate modules, it aims to make accessible the important texts of modern thinkers, to form a modern intellectual expression and a modern thought culture of the student. It traces some of the most important and well-established philosophical schools and trends of the 20th century, defining the diversity of modern philosophical life – existentialism, the Frankfurt School, neo-Kantianism, as well as the trend conventionally known as “philosophy of life”. The course introduces their leading representatives and their characteristic theoretical-value positions and enables students to learn and handle concepts such as intellect and intuition, being-in-the-world, intentionality of consciousness, existence, symbol, consumerism, one-dimensional thinking.

Course content:

In terms of teaching, they are independently separated into modules and allow the student to get acquainted with their leading representatives and their characteristic theoretical-value positions, to learn typical concepts such as duration (duree), intellect and intuition (Bergson), being-in-the-world, discarded-being (Geworfenheit), intentionality of consciousness, phenomenological reduction (Husserl), existence, metanarrative, etc. In a general plan, behind the

wealth of schools and directions in modern philosophy, the course highlights the “eternal” philosophical trends – rationalism and irrationalism – and ultimately affirms the role of philosophy as a methodology of theoretical activity. The course provides a system of modern theoretical knowledge necessary for the good professional realization of the students, for their correct orientation in public life and for their better integration with modern values and standards of work and creativity.

Teaching and assessment:

Training in the discipline is carried out through lectures and seminars on topics from the curriculum, as well as through supervised extracurricular work. The lecture course is traditional, but also includes interactive methods and multimedia. The seminars are held on a broader methodological basis – talks, discussions, debate, discussion, associative method, discussion of works of art, independent and collective work on the educational material. The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision. The course ends with a written exam on discipline outline.

PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ECTS credits: 4

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Nevena Krumova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: nevena_krumova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course of lectures on “Philosophical Anthropology” outlines the thematic situation in European philosophy, which contributed to the birth of anthropologism in philosophy, which flourished in the beginning and middle of the 20th century, as well as its problematization in the second half of the 20th century. Although it includes a wide range of the world’s most famous philosophers, it follows the thematic logic of the “anthropological perspective” in their work and thus presents the whole picture of anthropologicalism in philosophy.

Course content:

The proposed course covers 11 topics. The purpose of the training is to familiarize students with the so-called anthropological direction in philosophy.

Teaching and assessment:

The semester exam covers: written development of a theoretical question from a predetermined outline. The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision. The course ends with a written synopsis exam.

PHILOSOPHICAL LOGIC

ECTS credits: 3

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Silviya Kristeva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: silvia_kristeva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course introduces students to the genesis of the fundamental paradigms that determined the development of logical theory. It traces the course of philosophical ideas and the real heuristic moments that generated innovative theories and solutions in the field of logic, pushed forward theoretical and scientific development, including up to the present day. The course is based on the foundations, the generation of logical forms and the theoretical areas of traditional logic, transcendental logic, and modern logic.

Course content:

The aim of the course is to build on students' knowledge of logic by involving students in the research process of creating a new logical theory. The existing and established logical forms are problematized, looking for the grounds for their complete systematization and thus for the construction of a large-scale systematization of logical forms, exhausting and building the entire human thinking. The emphasis of the course is to explore and illuminate the foundations of transcendental logic and its further development into a system of dialectical logic by Hegel, precisely as an in-depth search for the systematic universal model of thinking.

Teaching and assessment:

Student training includes lectures and seminars accompanied by talks and discussions. Total number of lecture hours 30, number of seminar hours 30. During the course, each student must develop a thesis on one of the topics set for seminar classes.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

EASTERN PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 7

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Antoaneta Nikolova-Georgieva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: anikolova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Teaching in the discipline is focused on the philosophical ideas of Ancient China and India. It presents the features of the ancient Eastern way of philosophizing and philosophical understanding of the world, emphasizing both its specificity in relation to the Western way of philosophizing and its place in today's world, which is rethinking traditions. Particular attention is paid to the contemplative-practical nature of ancient Eastern philosophy, which is not just abstract theoretical knowledge, but an experienced understanding of the world and action in accordance with this understanding.

Course content:

The syncretic (mythological-philosophical-religious-scientific-poetic-practical) nature of

this philosophy is emphasized – a testimony not to its underdevelopment, but to the synthetic ability of human knowledge, which found a relatively complete expression here. The highlight of the course is the comparative analysis: on the one hand, the parallel between the two main traditions in Eastern philosophy: Chinese and Indian, on the other – between Western philosophy and Eastern philosophy in general.

Teaching and assessment:

The evaluation of the results achieved by the students in the learning process in the various academic disciplines is carried out in accordance with the system of transfer and accumulation of credits.

The final grade for each academic discipline is formed at the end of the course of study based on the grade received on a written answer to a question on a topic studied in the lecture course, and the grade from the student's independent (extracurricular) work.

PHENOMENOLOGY

ECTS credits: 7

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Nevena Krumova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: nevena_krumova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The aim of the course is to acquaint students with the phenomenological method, its basic concepts and applications, as well as to develop skills for its application.

Course content:

Successively, in the spirit of Husserl, the steps of phenomenological reduction are followed to reach the phenomenological a priori.

The application of phenomenology goes the way of revealing the existential, cultural and social forms of human experience and constructing the meaning of the human world.

Teaching and assessment:

The semester exam covers: written development of a theoretical question from a predetermined outline.

The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision. The course ends with a written synopsis exam.

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

ECTS credits: 5

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Antoaneta Nikolova-Georgieva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: anikolova@swu.bg

Annotation:

The “Philosophy of Religion” course aims to introduce students to the main problems that religions and religious thinking pose to philosophy.

Course content:

The religious part of the course is built on a broad comparative analysis between the achievements of European and non-European religious and religious-philosophical thinking. The main content of the course is related to examining the problem of God, his understanding and attributes, as well as the way to achieve it, emphasizing the comparison and complementarity of the immanent and transcendent approaches, on the one hand, and the apophatic and kataphatic on the other.

Teaching and assessment:

The semester exam covers: written development of a theoretical question from a predetermined outline.

The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision. The course ends with a written synopsis exam.

PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Chief Assist. Prof. Nevena Krumova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: nevena_krumova@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course aims to prepare students for understanding and responsibility regarding their future professional realization, as well as to problematize for them the mission of philosophizing in the contemporary globalizing world.

Course content:

The Philosophical Discourse course introduces students to the development of ideas about the subject and essence of philosophical knowledge. Philosophy /metaphysics/ is one of the defining moments of the European cultural-historical development and the changes in the discourse of philosophizing mark the major changes in the “spirit” and “life” of the European society.

Teaching and assessment:

The semester exam covers: written development of a theoretical question from a predetermined outline.

The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision. The course ends with a written synopsis exam.

PSYCHOANALYSIS

ECTS credits: 6

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Gergana Popova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: gerp@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course builds knowledge on the fundamentals of Psychoanalysis in its classical and post-classical form from the point of view of philosophical meaning and significance. The aim is to deepen students' knowledge in an area that is modern in the West and neglected for many years in Bulgaria, giving them the opportunity to analyze a number of philosophical texts, historical events and literary characters in a non-standard way.

Course content:

The lectures cover the most general problems of psychoanalysis; Oedipus complex, defense mechanisms, forms of manifestation of the unconscious. A place is also given to post-classical theories, especially Elliott Aranson's theory of dissonance and Shibutani's theory of empathy. In general, problems of drug addiction are also affected – the specificity of individual drugs, manifestation and effects on the body and psyche.

Teaching and assessment:

The semester exam covers: written development of a theoretical question from a pre-set synopsis – determined by an exam ticket drawn by the student; The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision.

SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 6

Assessment: exam

Semester: III

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Gergana Popova, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: gerp@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course aims to acquaint students with important theories and ideas for the development of society, social life and personality. Students to form skills for the most general orientation in the social phenomena of the modern world. The student who has successfully completed the course is expected to possess competence and skills for professional interpretation of contemporary social situations, while at the same time having interest and skills for deep analysis of current phenomena from the social life of Bulgaria and the world.

Course content:

The training is based on the history and development of basic social theories. Students who successfully complete the course are expected to acquire competencies and skills for professional

interpretation of contemporary social situations.

Teaching and assessment:

The semester exam covers: written development of a theoretical question from a pre-set synopsis – determined by an exam ticket drawn by the student; The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RATIONALITY

ECTS credits: 4

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Silviya Kristeva, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences,

Chief Assist. Prof. Ivo Minkov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: silvia_kristeva@swu.bg, iminkov@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course holds the two lines of gradual construction of philosophical and scientific rationality and the comparison and emphasis of the constant mutual generation of new ideas in both directions. The vision of classical and non-classical rationality is outlined. The basic philosophies of rationality from antiquity to the latest philosophy are traced. At the same time, basic scientific concepts are considered: Euclid's mathematical theory, Newtonian physics, Darwin's theory of evolution, Einstein's theory of relativity and modern cosmology. The course includes 30 hours of full-time lectures in the fourth semester, second year of study.

Course content:

During the course, students become familiar with the main concepts and achievements that determined the development of philosophical and scientific knowledge. The emphasis of the course is the familiarization with scientific texts and theories, with which to work actively and to extract the new moments and their foundations in the general theoretical horizon of the era. At the same time, to stabilize the vision of the movement of philosophical problems during the moments of constitution of the truly philosophical theory.

Teaching and assessment:

The semester exam covers: written development of a theoretical question from a pre-set synopsis - determined by an exam ticket drawn by the student.

The criteria according to which the written work is evaluated are: completeness of the presentation, accuracy in interpreting the scientific facts, stylistic and terminological precision.

HERMENEUTICS

ECTS credits: 4

Hours: 30 l+30 s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Chief Assist. Prof. Ivo Minkov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: iminkov@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course is intended for students in the master's degree in Philosophy who are bachelors in other majors. The course is included in the elective program. It is closely related to core readings in epistemology, history of philosophy, anthropology, and modern philosophy. Hermeneutics can be successfully considered historically-philosophically and thematically.

Course content:

In the present course, an attempt has been made to combine the two approaches. The historical-philosophical one is chosen as the guiding principle, and the conceptualization of the hermeneutic problematic is thematized by highlighting its leading ideas in historical terms. The art of interpretation has a long history – it begins in ancient Greek philosophy, but true hermeneutics begins with the interpretation of biblical texts. Then legal hermeneutics was born. Methodologizing hermeneutics as an art of interpretation leads to its purely philosophical identification. A powerful stimulus for the development of the hermeneutic approach was given by the boom of philology in the 18th and 19th centuries. Later, the so-called sciences of the spirit, which become an adequate womb for the thematic and methodological development of hermeneutics. In modern philosophy, hermeneutics is presented not only as a leading trend, but also as a relatively independent complete philosophizing. On its basis, the entire philosophical problematic is rethought, both as a type of knowledge and communication, and as a type of existence. This includes experience, feeling, historicizing, questioning existence, the wide field of discourses, intentionality, pre-understanding. The hermeneutic circle is distinguished as a type of extra-theoretical methodology, on the basis of which maximum completeness of meaning is sought. A series of contexts and horizons are involved here, the use of which has not a closing but an opening potential.

Teaching and assessment:

Lectures are held according to the ancient university tradition *ex cathedra*. Extracurricular employment includes students' independent work with texts, preparation for conferences, student publications and exams. It implies creative development, preparation of independent author's texts. An evaluation organization has been developed, including the type of written exam and the interview (only if necessary), complex evaluation criteria, ways to collect credits, conditions for admission to the exam, the possibility of exemption from the exam, a six-point knowledge evaluation system.