

SPECIALTY PHILOSOPHY

MASTER PROGRAMME: PHILOSOPHY

Educational and qualification degree: MASTER

Professional qualification: MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Study period: 1 years / 2 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” in “Philosophy”. The Master’s program aims to deepen, enrich and complement the preparation of undergraduates’, providing them with an upgrade and a comprehensive range 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, the knowledge of the students (acquired the degree “Bachelor – Philosopher”) must be deepened, through specialized lecture courses, in the field of the invariant forms of thinking.

Lecture courses in the field of:

- > Logic, Ontology, Epistemology
- > Ethics, Aesthetics
- > Social philosophy, Anthropology, Philosophy of science
- > Postmodern philosophy, Philosophical hermeneutics.

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 1 year /two semesters/ for the graduates of the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. 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 specialists

The curriculum is divided into two semesters with a total of 600 hours, which are equal to 60 ECTS credits. The hours are distributed by semesters as follows: first semester – 420 hours, second semester – 180 hours.

The curriculum covers thematically upgraded philosophical disciplines. It includes compulsory and optional subjects. Compulsory courses (480 hours) give a total of 36 ECTS credits. They provide in-depth scientific-theoretical and specialized training. The compulsory subjects are: Idea for the Being, Philosophical models of civilizations, Being as a metaphysical thinking, Virtualistic transcendentalism, Philosophical hermeneutics, Empiricism and rationalism: from Descartes to the French Enlightenment, Postmodern philosophy, Contemporary rationalist philosophies. Optional courses (120 hours) give a total of 9 ECTS credits. Through them, the knowledge, skills and competences obtained within the framework of the compulsory courses are enriched and specialized. Students choose two out of six 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 semester	ECTS credits	Second semester	ECTS credits
Idea for the Being	5	Postmodern philosophy	5
Philosophical models of civilizations	4	Contemporary rationalist philosophemes	5
Being as a metaphysical thinking	4	Optional subject from second group	5
Virtualistic transcendentalism	5	Thesis defense or written state exam	15
Philosophical hermeneutics	4		
Empiricism and rationalism: from Descartes to the French Enlightenment	4		
Optional subject from first group	4		
	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
Postmodern ethics	4	Contemporary ideas in psychoanalysis	5
Philosophy of art	4	Philosophy of special sciences	5
Philosophy of post-cultures	4	Social models of post-transition	5
TOTAL FOR 1 ACADEMIC YEAR: 60 CREDITS			

ANNOTATION OF COURSES

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS/COURSES

IDEA FOR THE BEING

ECTS credits: 5

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+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course builds on students' ontological knowledge and leads them to formed and refined ontological categorical structures. The internal dynamics of the categorical ontological process is also outlined: on the area of the last idea of thinking or the Absolute idea. A special emphasis of the course is the introduction to purely absolute models and, on this basis, a new ontology of the absolute continuum as a possible ontology of mathematics.

Course content:

Students will be introduced to existing metaphysical models of understanding "Being" that are reconstructed through the logical conceptualization of metaphysical thinking. The course is content related to the following philosophical disciplines: history of philosophy, logic, ontology

and epistemology.

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 examination syllabus in writing.

PHILOSOPHICAL MODELS OF CIVILIZATIONS

ECTS credits: 4

Hours: 30 l+30s

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 ambition of the course is not simply to list the historical events and processes, but to look for their philosophical model, to argue their philosophical meaning and value.

Course content:

The proposed course is a section of philosophy related to the search for philosophical models and interpretations of historical processes, events and personalities. The proposed course summarizes the history of mankind in 15 main topics, which are an attempt to synthetically cover history and the greatest achievements and events that changed the destiny of mankind.

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 examination syllabus in writing.

BEING AS A METAPHYSICAL THINKING

ECTS credits: 4

Hours: 30 l+30s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

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

Annotation:

The course builds on students' ontological knowledge towards the ultimate problem of the constitution of metaphysics. From this position, a new generalized procession is constructed through key models of being and rationality. A special emphasis of the course is the construction of the ontology of the supreme rational instance through teleology as a movement from subjectivity to objectivity as universal goal-setting. A special highlight is the in-depth examination of M. Heidegger's fundamental project of existential ontology, revealing the relational model of the world and its hermeneutic existential organization in the *telos* to transcendence.

Course content:

The aim of the course is to bring the students' thinking to the highest level of philosophical problematic, from the aspect of the highest positing of rationality. In the genesis of the supreme metaphysical concepts, the proper domain of the new metaphysical project is constituted. It includes both the ontological construction of all objectivity and the ontology of all subjectivity, which are completed in a new synthesis. These three divisions are revealed in the inner and generalized course of the most vivid metaphysical concepts and thus outline the parameters of the modern metaphysical project.

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 examination syllabus in writing.

VIRTUALISTIC TRANSCENDENTALISM

ECTS credits: 5

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+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course focuses on a specific problem from Kant's philosophy, which has far-reaching projections. It points in the first place to an unconventional reading of Kant.

Course content:

A detailed analysis of Kant's use of the concept of virtual can contribute to clarifying the essence of the concept of transcendental, and hence of the metaphysics of knowledge in its transcendental form. By reinterpreting the virtual in Kant, hermeneutic horizons can be discovered for a new type of thematization of critical metaphysics.

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 examination syllabus in writing.

PHILOSOPHICAL HERMENEUTICS

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

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

E-mail: iminkov@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course is closely related to core readings in epistemology, history of philosophy, anthropology and contemporary 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.

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.

EMPIRISM AND RATIONALISM: FROM DESCARTES TO THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

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

Hours: 30 l+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course presents emblematic authors who bear the arguments in the described trends of this philosophical drama in order to individualize the epistemological conflict and expand the basis of philosophical debate.

Course content:

This lecture course provokes an already specialized philosophical education by engaging the attention of master's-philosophers with an updated thematization of the two emerging trends in the epistemology of philosophy at the beginning of its modernity, or what is the same in the Modern philosophy.

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.

POSTMODERN PHILOSOPHY

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

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+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The Postmodern Philosophy course introduces students to one of the most influential trends in modern philosophy. The term “postmodern” was born and established in the 1940s and 1950s to reach full bloom in the modern “culture industry”. Postmodern philosophy is born and takes the risks of making sense out of the latest historical situation of the global and virtual society.

Course content:

The structuralist influence on postmodern thinking. An important premise of postmodernism is the notion of deep structures and the role of the sign in them, originating from structural linguistics and anthropology.

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.

CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHICAL PHILOSOPHEMES

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

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+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course examines the models of rational philosophizing from the past century. After the self-destruction of absolute reason and absolute spirit in the nineteenth century, a number of

irrational directions, such as existentialism, personalism, philosophy of life, entered the field of philosophy powerfully. However, purely rationalistic positions and ways of philosophizing, primarily related to the development of logic, natural sciences, language and anthropology, the value system, and law, are preserved. On the one hand, modern rationalistic philosophizing becomes the basis for specific achievements of science and technology. On the other hand, it further interprets and summarizes the scientific achievements themselves, drawing a certain conclusion from them.

Course content:

Planned as a whole, the course aims to acquaint students with the significant achievements of rationalist philosophical thought of the last century. Through its separate modules, both as lectures and as exercises, it aims to study and make consciously accessible the important texts of contemporary thinkers, to form knowledge about the topos and meaning of the types of modern rationalist philosophizing, the lines of interaction of rationality in the perspective of modernity and the current problems before humanity.

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 examination syllabus in writing.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

POSTMODERN ETHICS

ECTS credits: 4

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 is an introduction to ethical reflection, which tries to finally break with classical thought in its attempt to make sense of the new realities in the modern world.

Course content:

Acquiring knowledge about the main problems posed and solved by postmodern ethics; orientation in the main directions of the postmodern approach to the ethical; students will be able to think about the ethical problems of modern times in a new creative way.

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 exam on syllabus.

PHILOSOPHY OF ART

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assist. Prof. Nikolay Tzenkov, Ph.D., Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

E-mail: n.tsenkov@swu.bg

Hours: 30 l+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The course should present the main ideas about the essence and origin of art, as well as the regularities of its social functioning.

Course content:

Special attention is paid to the production, distribution and consumption of art and their socio-historical character. These activities are also considered depending on the power practices of a given society, especially those of the so-called modern and postmodern culture.

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 examination syllabus in writing.

PHILOSOPHY OF POST-CULTURES

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I

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+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The proposed course is a section of philosophy of history concerned with issues, values and interpretations of culture in the postmodern period. The aim of the course is to theoretically cover social problems and processes and to argue their philosophical meaning and value.

Course content:

Such a discipline broadens the philosophical horizon by presenting a palette of ideologies and worldviews related to postmodern society. The discipline is studied by students who have already become substantially acquainted with the main historical-philosophical and philosophical-historical concepts in order to be able to deepen contemporary cultural problems and processes.

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 examination syllabus in writing.

CONTEMPORARY IDEAS IN PSYCHOANALYSIS

ECTS credits: 5

Hours: 30 1+30s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

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

Annotation:

The aim of the training is to give students basic knowledge about the concepts, problems and researches of modern trends in psychoanalysis. After completing the lecture course, students should build a theoretical understanding of psychological problems and the ways in which they are solved by contemporary psychoanalytic practices.

Course content:

The proposed course covers 15 topics, which include the main “branches” of classical psychoanalysis: the American school, the French school, the Swiss school, postmodern psychoanalysis, etc.

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 examination syllabus in writing.

PHILOSOPHY OF SPECIAL SCIENCES

ECTS credits: 5

Hours: 30 1+30s

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: II

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

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

Annotation:

The lecture course concerns the disclosure of the essence of private sciences. Questions such as “what is special science?”, “typology of special sciences?”, “lines of interaction between individual special sciences?”, “relationship between philosophy and special sciences?” are placed at the basis of the training. Particular attention is paid to analytical and synthetic knowledge, to methodology in the special sciences and to methodology in philosophy. In general, the understanding of the problems takes place through the prism of the methodological concept, which results in a systematic unfolding of the sciences by means of philosophical thematization and

principles.

Course content:

The educational material presents the concepts of world-renowned philosophers of science and at the same time forms a comprehensive idea of the theoretical-cognitive and value aspects of the phenomenon of science. The specifics of fundamental modern sciences are considered: mathematics, physics, biology, also economics, law, computer science, etc. Students will consider the interrelationships and lines of interaction between philosophy as a science and the private sciences, 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 talk for presentation. The semester is certified by regular attendance at lectures, the presentation of at least one talk and an average success rate of at least 3.00 on the tests.

SOCIAL MODELS OF THE POST-TRANSITION

ECTS credits: 5

Assessment: exam

Semester: II

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+30s

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

Such a discipline broadens the philosophical horizon by presenting a palette of ideologies and worldviews for the development of humanity in a post-transitional stage, thus giving a more complete picture of the history of human society.

Course content:

The proposed course covers 15 topics. The aim of the training is to theoretically cover social problems and processes and to argue their philosophical meaning and value.

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 exam on syllabus.