

SPECIALTY PHILOSOPHY

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME: CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHICAL THEORIES

Educational and qualification degree: DOCTOR /Ph.D./

Professional qualification: RESEARCHER, Ph.D. in History of Philosophy

Study period: 3/4 years

Study mode: full-time, part-time, free

QUALIFICATION CHARACTERISTIC

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Specialty “Philosophy” offers a study program for doctoral students in the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”/Ph.D., in the scientific specialty “Contemporary philosophical theories”. The program is designed for masters who have completed philosophy, but also a wide range of humanities specialties. In certain areas and projections it is also suitable for students educated in the professional field of natural sciences.

The program aims to develop innovative theoretical thinking, backed by a rich historical-philosophical culture and theoretical coverage of contemporary philosophical theories.

Modern research approaches, methods and forms are used philosophizing. Through the educational process, the expansion of the fundamental is ensured theoretical and professional study by developing a dissertation on fundamental or applied problem for science and public practice in accordance with the high modern requirements and the need to immediately bind the scientific theory with the spiritual challenges of the age.

The aim of the philosophy college at SWU “Neofit Rilski” is to establish the doctoral program as a main form of organized training of highly-qualified personnel in the field of contemporary philosophical theories. The emphasis in the training of doctoral students is also placed on building capacities for critical philosophizing, evaluation and synthesis of the new globalist and postmodern ideas, interpretations and approaches in philosophical studies. Attention is paid to the formation of doctoral students as young scientists possessing the ability to freely communicate with colleagues from the professional community as well as with a wider audience.

2. DOCTORAL PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the doctoral studies in the scientific specialty “Contemporary philosophical theories” is to train highly-qualified personnel with sufficient scientific potential, who with knowledge and research skills to contribute to the development of spirituality in Bulgaria.

Doctoral students prepare to work with classical and contemporary texts. Their practice is the contemporary theoretical study and research. The formation of innovative thinking is the main priority of the program.

Doctorate holders can be realized in many fields of the modern life at home and abroad: science, education, cultural sphere, management activities, project activity and many etc.

3. GENERAL QUALIFICATION AND SPECIALIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

The specificity of the offered doctoral program consists in the emphasis on the hermeneutic, phenomenological and existential determination of the contemporary philosophical thinking. It is true that there are different understandings about contemporary philosophical theories, and that there are different approaches to them. In general, they could specify as the established and heuristic research methods: existentialism, personalism, philosophy of language, philosophy of science, postmodernism, etc.

4. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES ACQUIRED ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

4.1 Knowledge (theoretical and/or factual)

Doctoral students who have completed the doctoral program in “Contemporary philosophical theories” must possess systematized knowledge in the field of historical-philosophical development and applying critical analysis. To have mastered methods related to the realization of scientific study in philosophy. Acquisition of knowledge at the highest level in the field of philosophy, as well as in related humanitarian fields, to possess the ability to expansion and problematic modification of existing knowledge in the field of philosophy and in other related scientific fields.

4.2. Skills (cognitive and/or practical)

Ability to implement interdisciplinary research methodology in the field of humanitarian studies. The doctoral students who completed the doctoral program in “Contemporary philosophical theories” must be able to carry out critical research and to freely handle the philosophical transcendental-logical, hermeneutic and phenomenological methodology. To have skills to expand and overcome raise research problems as well as develop innovative ones theoretical solutions.

4.3. Individuality and responsibility

Doctoral students in the program must create and integrate new knowledge through independence of the research, as well as to expand the scope of the philosophical theorizing through adaptation in current issues; to own an independent assessment of the achieved results of the studied philosophical issues; and to have the ability to adapt in the modern research process.

4.4. Competence to learn

Doctoral students in the program must demonstrate a capacity for systematic philosophical acquisition of knowledge and its meaning and understanding; to show competences in understanding scientific research, publication activity and orientation in modern bibliographic and scientometric systems.

4.5. Communicative and social competence

Doctoral students must demonstrate competences for conceptualization and implementation of projects for new knowledge, as well as application and understanding of the most modern theoretical achievements in the field of philosophical knowledge. To own language competence to allow the free exchange of theoretical material and dissemination of ideas.

4.6. Professional competence

Doctoral students in the “Contemporary philosophical theories” program must understand in details the techniques for applying scientific and academic research. To have a competent one judgment on complex questions in the field of philosophy, even in the absence of complete data; to present his ideas systematically and to derive and problematize philosophically concepts to specialists and non-specialists in the field. To have the ability to continues his research in the relevant philosophical field of more complex conceptual levels by contributing to the development of new ideas and theoretical methods.

5. FIELDS OF PROFESSIONAL REALIZATION

Those awarded the Ph.D. in “Contemporary philosophical theories” have the following opportunities for professional realization:

In the system of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science:

- Social science specialists and religious experts;
- Researcher in the structures of higher education;
- University teacher;

- Expert at the regional inspectorates of education and culture on issues related to with humanitarian education and the forms of its social application;
- Expert in the municipal department “Education”;
- Consultant and organizer of social and cultural activities in non-governmental and charitable organizations and in the continuing education system;
- Analytical specialist in education as a researcher in the field of philosophy and civic education.

In the system of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy as:

- Expert in the municipal commissions for education and culture and to the municipal directorates.

Positions:

According to the national classification of positions and professions in the Republic of Bulgaria (2011) the positions that graduates of the Ph.D. in “Contemporary philosophical theories” can occupied are:

- Single group 2310 – University teachers;
- Single group 1223 – Heads of research and development;
- Single group 1345 – Heads in education system;

Single group 3435 – Other applied specialists in the field of art and culture.

STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

№	NAME OF THE WORK	Mode of studies and implementation			Mode of admission
		CREDITS	HORARY	lectures, seminars, classes, individual work, consultations, participations, other work	exam, ongoing assessment, discussion, certificate, report, minutes, attestation, other
I. EDUCATIONAL WORK					
1.	Contemporary philosophical theories	13.0	300	30 a. w. / 270 i. w.	I-III/ exam
2.	Problematized philosophical theorization	13.0	300	30 a. w. / 270 i. w.	I-III/ exam
3.	Project preparation and management	3.0	240	30 a. w. / 210 i. w.	X-XII/ exam
4.	English language	4.0	240	30 a. w. / 210 i. w.	VII-IX/ exam
5.	Optional subject*	12.0	270	30 a. w. / 240 i. w.	IV-VI/ exam
TOTAL :		45	1,350		
II. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK					
1.	Project for dissertation	9.0	270	Consultations, individual work	VII-IX/ Discussion
2.	Literature research and referencing	10.0	300	Individual work	I-III/ Discussion
3.	Consultations on the formulation of a problem field of	8.0	240	Consultations,	I-III/

	research			individual work	Discussion
4.	Formation of a doctoral thesis	8.0	240	Consultations, individual work	I-III/ Discussion
5.	Participation in scientific forums	20.0	600	Participation	I-XII/ Certificate/ Report
6.	Participation in scientific research projects	18.0	540	Participation	I-XII/ Certificate/ Report
7.	Publications* (1 in journals/collections abstracted and indexed in global databases or 3 in non-indexed editions with scientific review)	30.0	900	Individual work, consultations	I-XII/ Publication
8.	Participation in a permanent scientific seminar at a department / scientific center	16.0	480	Participation	VII-IX/ Report / Paper
	TOTAL :	119	3,570		
III. PEDAGOGICAL WORK					
1.	Seminar work with students	5.0	150	Seminars	VII-IX/ Report, Minutes
2.	Reviews of students thesis's work	2.0	60	Review	X-XII/ Report, Minutes
3.	Reviews of written assignments	1.0	30	Review	IV-VI/ Report, Minutes
	TOTAL :	8	240		
IV. OTHER WORK					
1.	Participation in Department meetings	2.0	60	Participation	X-XII/ Report, Minutes
2.	Participation in organizing committees for conducting conferences, round tables and other scientific forums	4.0	120	Participation	VII-IX/ Report, Minutes
3.	Participation in organizing committees in the preparation of administrative documentation, educational documentation, etc.	2.0	60	Participation	X-XII/ Report, Minutes
	TOTAL :	8	240		
	TOTAL (for the whole study period):	180	5400		

Conditions for admission to the defense of a doctoral dissertation

The educational and scientific degree "Doctor"/Ph.D. is acquired after fulfilling the obligations under Art. 46, paragraph 2 of the Higher Education Act, Art. 9, paragraph 2 of Law for the

Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, section II, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and according to the Conditions and procedure for acquiring the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”/Ph.D. from the Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the South-West University “Neofit Rilski”.

Curriculum notes:

1. The individual educational, research, pedagogical and other types of work from this General curriculum are specified in the individual work plan of each enrolled doctoral student by academic year, indicating details about the relevant horary, modes of implementation and admission, as well as other relevant information.
2. The General curriculum reflects all the requirements stipulated in the Higher Education Act, the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Internal Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the South-West University “Neofit Rilski”.
3. The curriculum of the doctoral student must provide opportunities for the achievement of the minimum national requirements for the relevant scientific field.
4. There are two optional subjects offered, of which the doctoral student must choose one.
 - 4.1. The first optional subject problematizes the development of the relevant contemporary philosophical theory in the course of the development of the later history of philosophy.
 - 4.2. The second optional subject problematizes the development of the relevant contemporary philosophical theory in relation to other theories of contemporary philosophy.

ANNOTATION OF COURSES

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS/COURSES

CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHICAL THEORIES

ECTS credits: 13

Assessment: exam

Semester: I and II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

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

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

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

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The subject "Contemporary philosophical theories" traces the basic and foundational philosophical concepts and ideas generated in the field of modern philosophy. Central are the theories of phenomenology, the development of existentialism, personalism, philosophy of science, analytical philosophy, philosophy of culture, philosophical hermeneutics. The PhD

student in Contemporary philosophical theories develops and demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of the field of contemporary philosophy and works within the broad context and horizon of the ideas, problems and theoretical solutions of contemporary philosophy.

Course content:

The subject begins with the breakdown of classical thinking. It goes through the main schools of contemporary philosophy, led by authors such as Husserl, Heidegger, Mounier, Thomas Kuhn, Derrida, Foucault. The actual theoretical projections and new theoretical areas such as philosophy of politics, philosophy of religions, modern ethical and aesthetic studies, the East-West discourse are also examined.

Teaching and assessment:

Independent preparation of the doctoral student according to the syllabus of the subject and with consultations with the supervisor. The exam is written on a randomly selected topic from the syllabus. Evaluation criteria: detailed knowledge, comprehensiveness and synopsis of the topic, current connection with the dissertation thesis.

PROBLEMATIZED CONTEMPORARY THEORETIZATION

ECTS credits: 13

Hours: 30 lectures

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: III and IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

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

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

E-mail: gerp@swu.bg, silvia.kristeva@swu.bg

Annotation:

The subject is formed on the relevant theoretical field, established by the choice of the doctoral thesis of the respective doctoral student and derives basic philosophical conceptions, concepts, methodology, specific to this field. This discipline demonstrates and generates the own field of doctoral thesis, placing it demonstrably and coherently on the broad context of contemporary philosophy.

Course content:

The genesis of concepts, methods, theoretical constructions in the selected thematic field is developed and demonstrated. The relevance and connection of the doctoral thesis and thematic area with contemporary philosophy and with the most pressing problems and solutions in philosophy today is developed.

Teaching and assessment:

Independent preparation of the doctoral student according to the syllabus of the subject and with consultations with the supervisor. The exam is written on a randomly selected topic from the syllabus. Evaluation criteria: detailed knowledge, comprehensiveness and synopsis of the topic, current connection with the dissertation thesis.

PROJECT PREPARATION AND MENAGEMENT

ECTS credits: 3

Hours: 30 lectures

Assessment: exam

Type of exam: written

Semester: I and II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Ivan Todorov, Ph.D., Department of Finance and Accountancy

E-mail: ivank.todorov@swu.bg

Annotation:

The course presents the main parameters and methodology of the planning and development of a project and implementation of a project activity, so fundamental as practice and reality of modern science. The course also has an immediate practical focus – the creation of an own project by the doctoral student and conformity to a high degree with the parameters and requirements for the preparation of a project.

Course content:

The specifics of the project activity and the application with a prepared project are presented. Doctoral students become familiar with the technology of creating a project and with the management of its implementation and expected results.

Teaching and assessment:

The doctoral student develops an independent project, fully compliant with the requirements learned during the course.

ENGLISCH LANGUAGE

ECTS credits: 4

Assessment: exam

Semester: I and II

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

Lecturers: Assoc. Prof. Maria Anastasova, Ph.D., Department of German studies and Romance studies,

Chief Assist. Prof. Elena Andonova-Kalapsazova, Ph.D., Department of German studies and Romance studies

E-mail: m.anastasova@swu.bg, andonova.elena@swu.bg

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The English language course is of exceptional practical use for doctoral students, as English is the most widely used scientific language. With its completion, PhD students will be able to participate in international forums and produce publications with international recognition.

Course content:

The level of the doctoral student is estimated and her/his use of the language at a higher level is deepened and certified. The specifics of producing and translating a scientific text into English and other specific scientific activities and practices are considered.

Teaching and assessment:

The examination procedures necessary to demonstrate the language preparation of the doctoral student at the relevant level are taken.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

FIRST OPTIONAL SUBJECT

ECTS credits: 12

Assessment: exam

Semester: III and IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

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

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

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

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The optional subject is specifically aimed at the doctoral student's chosen field in the contemporary philosophy and is subordinate to his doctoral thesis. Key moments of the development of the doctoral thesis are explained and detailed and they are developed in the context of the philosophical theory of the field and the wider context of contemporary philosophy.

Course content:

The first optional subject problematizes the development of the relevant contemporary philosophical theory and problematics in the course of the development of the later history of philosophy.

Teaching and assessment:

Independent preparation of the doctoral student according to the syllabus of the subject and with consultations with the supervisor. The exam is written on a randomly selected topic from the syllabus. Evaluation criteria: detailed knowledge, comprehensiveness and synopsis of the topic, current connection with the dissertation thesis.

SECOND OPTIONAL SUBJECT

ECTS credits: 12

Assessment: exam

Semester: III and IV

Methodical guide:

Department of Philosophical and Political Sciences

Faculty of Philosophy

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

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

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

Hours: 30 lectures

Type of exam: written

Annotation:

The optional subject is specifically aimed at the doctoral student's chosen field in relation to contemporary philosophy and is subordinate to his doctoral thesis. Key moments of the development of the doctoral thesis are explained and detailed and they are developed in the context of the philosophical theory of the field and the wider context of the most current philosophy.

Course content:

The second optional subject problematizes the development of the relevant philosophical theory in relation to other theories in the contemporary philosophy. The essential innovative and practically oriented moments and solutions in the selected thematic area are demonstrated.

Teaching and assessment:

Independent preparation of the doctoral student according to the syllabus of the subject and with consultations with the supervisor. The exam is written on a randomly selected topic from the syllabus. Evaluation criteria: detailed knowledge, comprehensiveness and synopsis of the topic, current connection with the dissertation thesis.