

FPRA12, Practical Philosophy: Level 1, 30 credits

Praktisk filosofi: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2014-09-01 and was last revised on 2026-03-06 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/158). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-06 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study Specialisation

Practical Philosophy G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of some issues, method problems, theories, concepts and positions in moral philosophy including applied ethics, political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of religion
- describe in general terms important historical and contemporary philosophers whose work and thinking have importance for how practical philosophy is carried out today
- describe at a general level and give an account of the important positions in practical philosophy's main fields of study: moral philosophy including applied ethics, political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of religion.

Competence and skills

- employ some of the methods of practical philosophy in written presentations
- use the analytical tools of practical philosophy to analyse certain positions and theorisings in the main fields of study of practical philosophy i.e. moral philosophy including applied ethics, political philosophy, aesthetics and philosophy of religion
- demonstrate a basic ability to take a position on and discuss their own and others' positions with regard to issues of right, wrong, vice and virtue

Judgement and approach

- use the analytical tools of practical philosophy to make assessments concerning present day problems
- critically reflect on norms and values in relation to humans' role in the world.

Course content

The course introduces the student to the problems and methods of practical philosophy. Questions about the position of values and actions, on both individual and community level, are central. The theories of contemporary and older philosophers are presented and analysed. Philosophic views are applied on moral, political, aesthetic and religious conceptions. The entire course highlights methods of argumentation and critical thinking in relation to the different philosophical issues.

In the first module, students are introduced to the history of moral philosophy, from antiquity to the 19th century. The aim of the module is to convey knowledge about the positions taken by various philosophers on central concepts such as good, evil, right, wrong and virtue – but equally to provide an understanding of the arguments used for and against these views. This focus on philosophical argumentation is reinforced in the second module, where students are introduced to the basics of critical thinking and also get to use this knowledge to analyse theses and arguments in applied ethics. In the third module, the focus shifts to modern theories in normative ethics and meta-ethics, while highlighting the connections to older theories. Here, ideas about central moral concepts are revisited, but also more abstract questions such as whether moral knowledge is possible or whether (and in what sense) morality can be objective. As before, the central goal is to understand positions and arguments. The fourth module focuses on political philosophy and addresses both historical and contemporary theories of central concepts such as justice, freedom, rights and equality. The final module deals with two branches of practical philosophy: philosophy of religion and aesthetics. In the first area, attention is focused in particular on various arguments for the existence of God and the significance of God for morality. In aesthetics, the main focus is on questions concerning the nature of art and beauty.

The course consists of the following five modules:

1. Introduction and the History of Moral Philosophy, 7.5 credits
2. Critical Thinking and Applied Ethics, 6 credits
3. Moral Philosophy, 7.5 credits

4. Political Philosophy, 4.5 credits

5. Philosophy of Religion and Aesthetics, 4.5 credits

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and group exercises. Module 5 includes one compulsory seminar.

The University is responsible for ensuring that an alternative date or comparable assignment is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar situation. This also applies to students who miss teaching sessions owing to activities in an elected position as student representative.

Assessment

Module 1 is assessed through an invigilated written exam

Module 2 is assessed through 2 compulsory written assignments and an invigilated written exam. The grade is determined by the an invigilated written exam, but a passing grade all assignments is needed for a passing grade in the module.

Module 3 is assessed through an invigilated written exam

Module 4 is assessed through an invigilated written exam

Module 5 is assessed through an invigilated written exam

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The grade on the course as a whole is calculated in accordance with the following method:

(1) Each letter grade corresponds to a number. 5 for A, 4 for B, 3 for C, 2 for D, 1 for E and 0 for Fail.

(2) The number grade for each module is multiplied by the number of credits in the module.

(3) The products are added up and the sum is divided by 30 (= the total number of credits for the whole course)

(4) The resulting weighted average determines the grade on the whole course. $x=4.50-5.00$ gives the grade A; $x=3.50-4.49$ gives the grade B; $x=2.50-3.49$ gives the grade C; $x=1.50-2.49$ gives the grade D; $x=0-1.49$ gives the grade E.

(5) To pass the course, students must have been awarded at least the grade of E on all course modules.

Entry requirements

General requirements for university studies in Sweden

Further information

1. The course is offered by the Department of Philosophy, Lund University.
2. This course replaces FPRA11.
3. The course is partly identical to the level 1 course in Practical Philosophy (FPPA01) in the Bachelor's programme Practical Philosophy, Politics and Economics.
4. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
5. Module titles in Swedish:
 1. Introduktion och moralfilosofins historia
 2. Kritiskt tänkande och tillämpad etik
 3. Moralfilosofi
 4. Samhällsfilosofi
 5. Religionsfilosofi och estetik