




4 credits

45.0 h

Q2

Teacher(s)	Feltz Bernard ;Pourtois Hervé ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	The main topics addressed will be: the epistemic status of scientific theories and models; the dynamics of science; the scope, and limits, of scientific knowledge; scientific explanation; realism; reductionism; the role of finality; naturalism; etc.
Aims	<p>The aim of the course is to introduce the students to contemporary philosophy of science. By the end of the course, the student should have mastered the central problems and main authors concerned with articulating a philosophy of nature in the 20th Century. The student should be able to present a question (orally or in writing), in a clear, synthetic, and precise manner. The student will be expected to argue in a rigorous manner in favor of one of the positions addressed while also taking a critical stance towards that same position. Finally, the student will be able to orient him or herself in the literature on philosophy of science.</p> <p>1</p> <p>-----</p> <p><i>The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".</i></p>
Evaluation methods	Oral exam(with written preparation) to assess understanding of the issues, concepts and approaches presented in the course and the ability to reason about them.
Teaching methods	Magistral lecturesometimes assuming the prior reading of texts by the students. The plan and any details will be communicated in writing by each teacher at the beginning of the concerned part of his teaching.
Content	<p>Part 1 ' Introduction to the philosophy of natural sciences (by Bernard Feltz)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The nature of scientific explanation (nomological-deductive model and its critics ; prediction and explanation) ; theory and experiment. 2. Rationality and dynamics of scientific evolution (Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos) 3. Scientific realism and reductionism <p>Part 2 ' Introduction to the philosophy of social sciences with a focus on sociology (by Hervé Pourtois)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Epistemological issues at the origin of sociology (Durkheim and Weber) 2. Explanation in social sciences (rational choice theory, functionalism, structuralism, communicative action) 3. Social sciences and social criticism (the Critical theory of society)
Bibliography	/
Other infos	/
Faculty or entity in charge	EFIL

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Aims
Master [120] in Public Administration	ADPU2M	4		
Bachelor in Philosophy	FILO1BA	4		
	FILO9CE	4		
Minor in Philosophy	LISP100I	4		