GDAŃSK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Subject card

Subject name and code	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY, PG_00064375		
Field of study	Chemistry		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	first-cycle studies	Subject group	Optional subject group Humanistic-social subject group
Mode of study	Full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	general academic profile	Assessment form	assessment
Conducting unit	Department of Philosophy and Science Methodology -> Faculty of Management and Economics -> Faculties of Gdańsk University of Technology		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Przemysław Parszutowicz	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

Getting acquainted with the basic concepts of philosophy in their historical development. The course provides an elementary introduction to the history of ancient, modern and contemporary philosophy. It shows how key concepts took shape against the background of the main philosophical currents, with particular emphasis on the theory of knowledge.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[K6_K04] is able to identify and resolve dilemmas related to the chemical engineering profession while respecting traditions and ethical principles	is aware of the historical roots of the basic concepts used in science and in everyday thinking (truth, knowledge, experience, cause, method); is able to identify the philosophical assumptions of a given position and point to the tradition from which it stems.	[SK2] Assessment of progress of work
[K6_K02] is aware of the importance of non-technical aspects and consequences of engineering activities, including their impact on the environment, and of the related responsibility for the decisions to be taken	is ready to present and compare, clearly and in correct language, positions in the debate on the sources, limits and value of knowledge (rationalism vs. empiricism, dogmatism vs. scepticism); understands that the adopted conception of knowledge and science affects the assessment of the non-technical consequences of scientific and engineering activity.	[SK3] Assessment of ability to organize work
[K6_W07] integrates general knowledge in the humanities, social sciences, economics including their foundations, principles of protection of intellectual property and patent law relevant to appropriate interpretation and application in scientific and economic activities, and the concept of sustainable development	knows the basic philosophical concepts and the main currents of ancient, modern and contemporary philosophy, with particular emphasis on the theory of knowledge; can explain the origin and meaning of concepts such as arche, idea, substance, experience, causality and the synthetic a priori judgement, and link them to the thinkers and periods in which they took shape.	[SW1] Assessment of factual knowledge

<table>
<tr><td>Subject contents</td><td>Course content – lecture

What is philosophy: its branches and its birth in Greece, the concept of arche (Thales, Anaximander, Heraclitus); The Pythagoreans and the Eleatics: number, being and appearance, Zeno’s paradoxes; The Sophists and Socrates: Protagoras’ relativism, the question of definition; Plato: the Idea, knowledge (episteme) vs. opinion (doxa), the allegory of the cave; Aristotle: substance, form and matter, the four causes, logic and induction; Ancient scepticism and the problem of the criterion of truth; The modern turn: F. Bacon (the theory of idols, induction) and Galileo (the mathematisation of nature, primary and secondary qualities); Descartes: method, methodical doubt, the cogito; Modern rationalism: Spinoza and Leibniz (innate ideas, truths of reason and truths of fact); British empiricism: Locke (tabula rasa, simple and complex ideas) and Berkeley (esse est percipi); Hume: impressions and ideas, the critique of the concept of cause, the problem of induction; Kant: the Copernican revolution, analytic and synthetic judgements, synthetic a priori judgements, phenomena and things in themselves; Hegel: dialectics and the historicity of reason; Positivism and neopositivism: Comte (the law of three stages), the Vienna Circle (logical empiricism, the verification principle); Selected 20th-century currents: pragmatism (the pragmatic conception of truth) and Husserl’s phenomenology (intentionality, the phenomenological reduction).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prerequisites and co-requisites</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment methods and criteria</td><td><table><tr><th>Subject passing criteria</th><th>Passing threshold</th><th>Percentage of the final grade</th></tr><tr><td>Final written exam</td><td>50.0%</td><td>100.0%</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Recommended reading</td><td><table><tr><td>Basic literature</td><td>• B. Russell, A History of Western Philosophy, London 1946.
• B. Russell, The Problems of Philosophy, London 1912.
• A. Kenny, A New History of Western Philosophy, Oxford 2010.
• W. Tatarkiewicz, Historia filozofii, vol. 1–3, Warszawa 2005.</td></tr><tr><td>Supplementary literature</td><td>• K. Ajdukiewicz, Zagadnienia i kierunki filozofii. Teoria poznania. Metafizyka, Kęty 2003.
• Przewodnik po literaturze filozoficznej XX wieku, t. 15, red. B. Skarga.</td></tr><tr><td>eResources addresses</td><td></td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed</td><td>Name the main branches of philosophy; Explain what arche meant for the first Greek philosophers; Discuss the difference between knowledge and opinion in Plato; Explain Aristotle’s concept of substance; Characterise Descartes’ methodical doubt; Present the dispute between rationalism and empiricism over the sources of knowledge; Discuss Hume’s critique of the concept of cause; Explain what synthetic a priori judgements are according to Kant; Present the main tenets of positivism.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Practical activites within the subject</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr>
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