



DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, LINGUISTICS AND THEORY OF SCIENCE

AMP120 Dreaming and Dream-Consciousness in Ancient and Medieval Philosophical Texts: An Introduction, 7.5 credits

Drömmar och drömmedvetande i antika och medeltida filosofiska texter: En introduktion, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science on 2020-06-15 to be valid from 2021-01-18, spring semester of 2021.

Field of education: Arts 100%

Department: Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science

Position in the educational system

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

Main field of studies

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Specialization

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

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- at a general level describe how dreams figure in philosophical arguments, thought experiments and examples in ancient and medieval philosophy,
- at a general level describe how dreams are used by various ancient and medieval authors in the fields of epistemology and psychology,

- at a general level describe the method of textual criticism and the fundamental scientific principles for a critical edition,
- at a general level describe the development of ancient and medieval handwriting and the abbreviation system in Western manuscripts,

Competence and skills

- on a basic level give an overview of the development of theories on dreams and dreaming from Antiquity via the Middle Ages to the present day,
- on a basic level identify epistemological and psychological problems in various philosophical ancient and medieval texts that discuss dreams,
- on a basic level reproduce the arguments that are based on dreams that various authors use to support a theoretical position in epistemology or psychology,
- on a basic level identify the major challenges of reconstructing a text from medieval manuscripts,
- discuss the interplay between reconstruction, interpretation and translation of ancient and medieval philosophical texts,

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an awareness of the material conditions that affect the accessibility of ancient and medieval philosophical texts and the conditions for translating and interpreting these.

Course content

The present interdisciplinary course provides an introduction to the research field of ancient and medieval philosophy through the theme of dreams and dream-consciousness broadly understood. The relevant sources span from the ancient classical period through the Middle Ages and the early modern period to our present time. Themes that will be discussed include e.g. the problem of discriminating between dreaming and waking, dreams used for the purpose of promoting epistemological relativism, explanations of why the dreamer typically mistakes his dream as a perception of something real, and whether naïve acceptances of dreams as real involve proper beliefs or not. The course is interdisciplinary in that it includes also the study of the material aspects of the transmission of ancient philosophical texts via the Middle Ages to our time, and of the various methodologies – paleography, codicology and textual criticism – that allow us to reconstruct the ancient and medieval originals so that we can access their content in a reliable way. The course offers the student not only the opportunity to acquire knowledge about how our theories on dreams developed from Antiquity to present times, but also an introduction to the methodology of history of philosophy and classical philology as an interdisciplinary field of research.

Form of teaching

The course is an online course. Lectures may be recorded and/or take place via live virtual meeting rooms.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The course is assessed through an individual written examination.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

Course evaluation

Students who are currently taking the course or have completed it will be given the opportunity to express their views and share their experience in an anonymous course evaluation. A compilation of the course evaluation and the course coordinator's reflections in it will be made available to the students within reasonable time after the end of the course. The next time the course is taught the compilation and any measures based on it will be presented to the students.

