Fundamentals of humanitarian and philosophical knowledge in professional activity

Specialty
F5 – Cybersecurity and information protection

Institute
Institute of Social and Humanitarian Technologies

Educational program
Cybersecurity

Department
Philosophy (307)

Level of education
Bachelor's level

Course type
Mandatory

Semester
3

Language of instruction
English

Lecturers and course developers

Horodyska Olga
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Candidate of Philosophical Sciences (PhD), Associate Professor, the Head of Philosophy department (NTU "KhPI").

Work experience – 24 years. Authored over 80 scientific, popular scientific and educational publications. Leading lecture on the course "Philosophy" (Ukrainian/English), "Philosophical-anthropological discourse of contemporaneity", "Basic conceptions in the history of philosophical thought"
More about the lecturer on the department's website
https://web.kpi.kharkov.ua/philosophy/gorodyska-olga-mykolayivna/

General information

Summary

This discipline aims to cultivate students' understanding of their personal roles within their professional fields. To develop a comprehensive system of humanities and philosophical knowledge, serving as methodological tools for analyzing theoretical and practical problems in the natural, technical, and humanities domains. To foster the ability to substantiate one's worldview and civic stance, as well as to independently analyze facts, phenomena, and processes within the "human-world" system. To shape future professionals with high moral qualities and behavioral skills grounded in universal human values, self-awareness, and a sense of responsibility. To introduce students to the essence, laws, and trends of modern civilization.

Course objectives and goals

The development of deep worldview and theoretical knowledge in the humanities and philosophy among students, the cultivation of abstract and critical thinking, the mastery of scientific-philosophical categorical apparatus, as well as the development of skills in analyzing and comprehensively evaluating human activity and events in the surrounding world.

Format of classes

Lectures, workshops, consultations. The course ends with a final exam.

Competencies

GC2. Knowledge and understanding of the subject area and understanding of professional activity.
GC8. The ability to preserve and multiply moral, cultural, scientific values and achievements of society based on an understanding of the history and patterns of development of the domain, its place in the general system of knowledge about nature and society and in the development of society, technologies, to use various types and forms of motor activity for active recreation and leading a healthy lifestyle.

Learning outcomes

LO4. Organize own professional activity, choose optimal methods and ways of solving complex specialized tasks and practical problems in professional activity, evaluate their effectiveness.
LO5. Analyze, argue, make decisions when solving complex specialized tasks and practical problems in professional activity, which are characterized by complexity and incomplete determination of conditions, be responsible for the decisions made.
LO6. Adapt to new conditions and technologies of professional activity, predict the end result

Student workload

The total volume of the course is 120 hours (4 ECTS credits): lectures - 16 hours, workshops - 32 hours, self-study - 72 hours.

Course prerequisites

To successfully complete the course, you must have knowledge and practical skills in the following disciplines: "Ukrainian as a foreign language", "Foreign language", "History and culture of Ukraine".

Features of the course, teaching and learning methods, and technologies

Lectures with presentations, discussions, practical classes (seminars, workshops), individual work (abstract, essay, participation in conferences and specialized seminars, work with original works on philosophy).

Program of the course

Topics of the lectures	Hours
Topic 1. The place of humanitarian and philosophical knowledge in professional activity. Human's active attitude to the world, his transforming potential. A professional as a person. The place of worldview in the personality structure. General humanitarian and worldview character of philosophical knowledge. The relationship between philosophy and science. The main philosophical dimensions of worldview (ontological, epistemological, axiological, anthropological, social, etc.). Functions of philosophy.	2
Topic 2. The philosophical conceptions of Antiquity. Natural philosophical and ontological ideas of pre-Socratic philosophy. Ideas about the changeability and discreteness of the world. Sophists and the development of logic. Critical philosophy of Socrates and his concept of human as a moral being. A systematic view of the world in Plato's philosophy and his doctrine of ideas. Aristotle's logic and the problem the world cognition. The first system of sciences. The problem of human and the world in Hellenistic philosophy.	2
Topic 3. The specificity of philosophical knowledge of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.	2

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Peculiarities of the medieval philosophy reflection on the being and human, its main principles and conceptions. Social-philosophical, anthropological, ethical ideas of the Middle Ages. Development of logic in scholasticism. The emergence of empirical knowledge. Social, anthropological, ethical, natural philosophical concepts of the Renaissance. Humanism.

Topic 4. Development of modern humanitarian and philosophical knowledge. The scientific revolution of the 17th century, the first scientific picture of the world. The problem of the cognition method. Empiricism and rationalism are two trends in modern philosophy. Philosophical, socio-political, natural ideas of the Age of Enlightenment, their significance for the development of Western European civilization. Atheism. The phenomenon of I. Kant's critical philosophy and the conditions for the possibility of knowledge. Kant's ethics. G.W.F. Hegel and his philosophical system and method.	2
Topic 5. Transformation of humanitarian and philosophical knowledge in the 19th – early 20th cent. The crisis of the rationalist view on the world, the main ideas of irrationalism: criticism of rationalism and scientism, criticism of the value system, justification of the irrational essence of human. The materialist conception of society in Marxism philosophy. The philosophical foundations of the science substantiation problem (positivism, empiriocriticism). The main ideas of the national philosophical thought of the 19th – early 20th cent.	2
Topic 6. Contemporary Western European and domestic philosophical discourses. The crisis of civilization in the 20th –- 21st centuries, philosophical reflections on it: problems of knowledge and philosophy of science, the problem of consciousness, the problem of human. Ideas of society and civilization development. The problem of knowledge and language in the philosophy of the 20th cent. Postmodernity condition in culture.	2
Topic 7. Current humanitarian and philosophical knowledge. Concepts of a person and socialization as a factor of human formation. The main institutions of socialization. Peculiarities of the contemporary socio-cultural situation. Influence of mass-media and computer technologies. Problematization of communication as the basis of human communication. Intersubjectivity, virtualization of the human "I". Anthropological aspect of technology. Philosophical conceptions about technology and technological progress. Human in technical civilization conditions. Technique and process of globalization.	4
Total hours	**16**

Workshops

Topics for workshops/seminars	Hours	Weighting coefficients *a*
Topic 1. Philosophical and humanitarian knowledge as components of professional activity and professionalism. Values and worldview of a personality, one's attitude to work, to society, to the world, to oneself. The impossibility of forming these attitudes and professionalism without personal assimilation of philosophical knowledge and concepts. Philosophy as a system of the being reflection, which offers worldview conceptions to the world and society. The development of a professional's personality as the consumption of philosophical theories and approaches for the synthesis of one's own existential position.	2	0,1

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1885

Topic 2. The main ideas of ancient philosophy, their significance for the development of civilization. 4 0,1

The first philosophical conceptions: the origin of the world, being, development, unity and discreteness of the world. Number as a beginning. Ancient atomism. Origin of logic, ideas of sophists. Critical thought of Socrates, the concept of human as a moral being. Plato's teaching about ideas, the emergence of a systematic view of the world. Aristotle's creation of the first system of sciences, the doctrine of logic and the problem of the world cognition. Ethics problems in Hellenistic philosophy.

Topic 3. Philosophical ideas of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. 4 0,2

Characteristic features of medieval philosophy. The problem of the relationship between reason and faith. Augustine's teachings about human, soul and body; Augustinian conceptions of time and state. Scholasticism, its specifics and ideas. The problem of human free will. The principle of human unity. Empirical ideas of R. Grossetest and R. Bacon. Philosophical and scientific ideas of the Renaissance. Humanism. "Oration on the Dignity of Man". Social and political ideas of the Renaissance, utopianism.

Topic 4. Modern humanitarian and philosophical knowledge. 6 0,2

The scientific revolution and the first scientific picture of the world in the 17th cent. Modern empiricism, the problem of cognition, a materialistic view of the world. Evolution of empiricism. Modern rationalism, rules of method and Descartes' method of doubt. Spinoza's materialism and ethics. Leibniz's philosophy; personal dimension of being. The Age of Enlightenment philosophy: conceptions of natural human rights, general education, socio-political progress, omnipotence of reason, subjugation and reconstruction of the world. Peculiarities of mechanistic methodology in humanities and natural sciences; human as a machine. Main features of Ukrainian philosophical thought. The concept of human and "related work" in the philosophy of H. Skovoroda. Critical philosophy of I. Kant, synthesis of empiricism and rationalism. Agnosticism. Categorical imperative as a humanist position, Kant's concept of freedom. Philosophical views of Fichte and Schelling. Hegel's philosophy, the identity of thinking and being. Hegel's dialectics: principles, laws, categories. The human problem in L. Feuerbach's materialism.

Topic 5. Philosophical discourse of contemporaneity: from the 19th to the beginning of the 21st century. 8 0,2

The crisis of the rationalist view on the world, non-classical philosophy. Criticism of Western civilization, its "humanism", the idea of the will to power and the concept of superman in F. Nietzsche's philosophy. Materialistic interpretation of the historical process. The dialectical-materialist idea of practice in Marx and Engels' cognition theory. Scientific trend in philosophy: O. Comte's positivism, empiriocriticism. A new comprehension of human in the psychoanalytic philosophy of Z. Freud, substantiation of the irrational character of individual human existence. The main ideas of the philosophical thought of Ukraine in the 19th century. Cosmism of V. Vernadsky. The main directions and essential features of philosophy of the 20th – 21st cent. E. Husserl's phenomenology. Knowledge about human in philosophical anthropology and existentialism: openness to the world, freedom,

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responsibility, life and death, sense of life. Methodology and logic of science development in neo-positivism and post-positivism. Socio-philosophical conceptions of the 20th – 21st cent. The search for methodology in the humanitarian field of science: the main ideas of hermeneutics and structuralism. The crisis of modernity and the Postmodernity condition in culture

Topic 7. Current humanitarian and philosophical problems. Human and the world today. Features of the contemporary socio-cultural environment. Media and computer technology industry. Technology as an anthropological problem. Technology and technical progress in philosophy. The problem of the interaction of nature and technology. Man in conditions of technical civilization. Technology in the conditions of globalization. Human and mass-media. Virtualization of "I" in the information space. Problematization of communication. The problem of intersubjectivity and mechanisms of self-identification of an individual. "Mass-man" and the problem of loneliness. Human mind and artificial intelligence. The problem of transhumanism and "posthuman" in philosophy and culture. Problems of bioethics.	8	0.2
Total hours	**32**	**1**

Laboratory classes

Laboratory work is not provided within the discipline.

Control works

Complex tests on the discipline	Weighting coefficients b
Test 1. Topic 1. The place of humanitarian and philosophical knowledge in professional activity.	0,15
Test 2. Topic 2. The philosophical conceptions of Antiquity.	0,15
Test 3. Topic 3. The specificity of philosophical knowledge of the Middle Ages.	0,15
Test 4. Topic 4. Development of modern humanitarian and philosophical knowledge.	0,15
Test 5. Topic 5. Transformation of humanitarian and philosophical knowledge in the 19th – early 20th cent.	0,2
Test 6. Topic 6. Contemporary Western European and domestic philosophical discourses.	0,2
Total	**1**

Self-study

Self-study includes independent work on theoretical materials and completion of individual assignments (essay). other types of individual work are possible – participation in conferences and specialized seminars (with thesis writing), work with original works on philosophy, etc. These works are written and completed according to the requirements.

Work on theoretical materials

Topics on self-study	Hours
Topic 1. The place of humanitarian and philosophical knowledge in professional activity.	4

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The development of a professional's personality as the consumption of philosophical theories and approaches for the synthesis of one's own existential position.

Topic 2. The philosophical conceptions of Antiquity. Ethics problems in Hellenistic philosophy.	6
Topic 3. The specificity of philosophical knowledge of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Social and political ideas of the Renaissance, utopianism.	6
Topic 4. Development of modern humanitarian and philosophical knowledge. Main features of Ukrainian philosophical thought. The concept of human and "related work" in the philosophy of H. Skovoroda.	4
Topic 5. Transformation of humanitarian and philosophical knowledge in the 19th – early 20th cent. The main ideas of the philosophical thought of Ukraine in the 19th century. Cosmism of V. Vernadsky.	4
Topic 6. Contemporary Western European and domestic philosophical discourses. Socio-philosophical conceptions of the 20th – 21st cent.	6
Topic 7. Current humanitarian and philosophical knowledge. "Mass-man" and the problem of loneliness. Human mind and artificial intelligence.	6
Total hours	**36**

Topics for individual assignments

An essay is a written work with the disclosure of a selected topic, which involves demonstrating the ability to analyze information and format text documents in accordance with the purpose of the academic discipline. The applicant chooses a specific topic within the general topic in agreement with the teacher. The volume of work is 12–15 pages. The essay must be formatted in accordance with the requirements. The task is completed during the academic weeks and submitted for verification before the exam.

Topics for individual assignments

Topic 1. The main concepts of M. Scheler's philosophical and anthropological concept: openness to the world, eccentricity, "defectiveness" of man. Evolution of Scheler's ideas.

Topic 2. Continuation and interpretation of Scheler's anthropology. G. Plesner: "The stages of the organic and man." The problem of the interaction of the organism and the environment.

Topic 3. Bioanthropological ideas of A. Gehlen. Man as an unspecialized being. Gehlen's pluralistic ethics.

Topic 4. Culture as the "environment" of human existence. E. Rothacker's teachings about the "way of life", his teachings about man as the creator and bearer of culture.

Topic 5. Landman's criticism of the "genetic kinship" between humans and animals.

Topic 6. Philosophy of Hans-Eduard Hengstenberg (1904-1998), religious and anthropological ideas.

Topic 7. Existential model of man in philosophy and culture.

Topic 8. The problem of alienation and futurological ideals in the concepts of post-Marxism (M. Horkheimer, T. Adorno, G. Marcuse, Y. Habermas).

Topic 9. M. Buber's communicative anthropological concept. "I", "You" and "It" as the main types of a person's relationship to the world. Encounter as the basis of human existence.

Topic 10. Structuralist anthropology: man in discourses of culture and power (C. Lévi-Strauss, J. Lacan, M. Foucault).

Topic 11. Criticism of human subjectivity and the phenomenon of the "death of the author" in poststructuralism and postmodernism (R. Barthes, J. Derrida, J. Deleuze, J. Baudrillard).

Topic 12. "Christian Evolutionism" by Teilhard de Chardin. "Anthropic Principle" as an Argument for Modern Creationism.

Topic 13. Culturogenesis as anthroposociogenesis. Models of culturogenesis: game (J. Huizinga), psychoanalytic (S. Freud, C.G. Jung), semiotic (K. Lévi-Strauss, J. Derrida).

Topic 14. The problem of life and death in philosophy and culture. Death as an ontological boundary.

Topic 15. The meaning of life as an integral characteristic of human existence. The essence of man in the conditions of improving the scientific and technical dimension of the world.

Topic 16. The problem of freedom in culture and philosophy. Man as freedom (J.P. Sartre). The question of the relationship between freedom and responsibility.

Topic 17. The concept of "freedom from..." and "freedom for..." by E. Fromm.

Topic 18. "The man of the masses" and the problem of loneliness.

Topic 19. The biological side of the human phenomenon as a prerequisite for human existence. Manifestations of human corporeality (fear, shame, aggression, laughter, crying).

Topic 20. Metaphysics of gender in cultural history. Masculine, feminine, love, sexuality.

Topic 21. Rationalist model of man. Man as a "rational animal". Human intelligence and artificial intelligence.

Topic 22. Features of the modern socio-cultural situation and its impact on the process of socialization. The impact of mass media and computer technologies.

Topic 23. Education as a factor of socialization, main historical strategies and its features at the present stage.

Topic 24. Communication as the basis of communicative culture. Intersubjectivity, virtualization of the human "I". Problems of virtual communication.

Topic 25. The problem of intersubjectivity and mechanisms of individual self-identification.

Topic 26. Activity as an essential characteristic of a person. Types of activity. Means of labor as an extension of human corporeality.

Topic 27. Technology as an attribute of human life. Man in the conditions of technical civilization. Technology and the process of globalization.

Topic 28. Rational-logical foundations of nature and thinking in logical positivism (G. Frege, B. Russell, L. Wittgenstein).

Topic 29. Human Mind and Artificial Intelligence in the Post-Analytic Tradition (H. Putnam, D. Dennett).

Topic 30. Transhumanism and the problem of "posthuman" in modern philosophy and culture. Problems of modern bioethics.

| **Total hours** | **36** |

Non-formal education

The applicant has the opportunity to re-enroll individual topics or courses; for enrollment, it is necessary to provide: a certificate (electronic or printed) of completion of the relevant courses, a description of the program indicating the content of the topics, scope, and duration.

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Literature, training materials, and information resources

Main literature

1. Biletsky I., Malyshenko A. Philosophy: Educational book. Kharkiv, 2010.
2. Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of Mind. Multiple Contributors. Rebus Community, 2019.
3. Ondich J. Words of Wisdom: Intro to Philosophy. Lake Superior College, Duluth, Minnesota, 2018.
4. Ott W. Modern Philosophy. University of Virginia, BCcampus, 2013.
5. Payne R. W. An Introduction to Philosophy. BCcampus, 2015.
6. Wilber K. The spectrum of consciousness. Wheaton, Adyar, Madras, 1993.
7. Larsen R. J., Buss D. M. Personality Psychology: Domains of Knowledge About Human Nature. McGraw-Hill Education, 2013.
8. Feist J., Feist G. J. Theories of Personality. McGraw–Hill Education, 2008.
9. Naugle D. K. Worldview: The History of a Concept. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002.
10. Russell B. A History of Western Philosophy.
https://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/History%20of%20Western%20Philosophy.pdf
11. Kenny A. A New History of Western Philosophy. Ancient Philosophy. CLARENDON PRESS, 2003
12. McLuhan M. Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man. Routledge, 2001.
13. Ellul J. The Technological Society. Vintage Books, 1964.
14. The Palgrave Handbook of the Anthropology of Technology. Edited by Maja Hojer Bruun et al. Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.

Additional materials

15. Funder D. C. The Personality Puzzle. W. W. Norton & Company, 2019.
16. Carr N. The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains. Paperback, 2010.
17. Nilsson A. The Psychology of Worldview: Toward a Non-Reductive Science of Personality. [Doctoral Thesis (compilation), Department of Psychology]. Lund University, 2013
https://lup.lub.lu.se/search/files/5733804/3738786.pdf
18. Dimmock M, Fisher A. Ethics for A-Level. Torquay Boys' Grammar School, University of Nottingham, 2017.
19. Kormelink J. G. Responsible Innovation: Ethics, Safety and Technology. TU Delft, 2019.
20. Johnson J. L. Inferring and Explaining. Portland State University, 2019.
21. Newport C. Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World. Kindle Edition, 2019.
22. Postman N. Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business. PENGUIN BOOKS, 2005.
23. Anthropological Perspectives on Technology. Edited by Michael B. Schiffer. University of New México Press, 2001.
24. Turkle Sh. Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other. Basic Books, 2011.
25. Cover R. Identity and Digital Communication: Concepts, Theories, Practices. Routledge, 2023.
26. Understanding the Self and Others: Explorations in Intersubjectivity and Interobjectivity. Edited by Gordon Sammut, Paul Daanen, and Fathali Moghaddam. Routledge, 2013.
27. The Transhumanist Reader: Classical and Contemporary Essays on the Science, Technology, and Philosophy of the Human Future. Edited by Max More and Natasha Vita-More Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

Grading system

The final grade for the educational component is determined by the lecturer and is based on topics, types of activities, etc., in accordance with the syllabus. It is an integrated assessment of the results of all types of student learning activities. The final grade should reflect all the grades for the different parts of the educational process, taking into account their weighting coefficients k:

Continuous assessment (during workshops, seminars) k_1	Control works (tests), k_2	Individual assignment (essay), k_3	Final assessment (exam), k_4
0,25	0,25	0,25	0,25

The sum of the coefficients must be equal to one: $k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 = 1$. The weighting coefficients for the final assessment are decided by the course developer.
The final grade is calculated using the following formula:

$$G = C \cdot k_1 + K \cdot k_2 + \text{I} \cdot k_3 + E \cdot k_4$$

where: C – weighted average score for the continuous assessment
I – individual assignment grade
K – weighted average score for the continuous assessment
E – final assessment (exam) grade

$$C = \frac{C_1 \cdot a_1 + C_2 \cdot a_2 + \ldots + C_n \cdot a_n}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_i}$$

where: a_i - weighting coefficient for each workshop.

$$K = \frac{K_1 \cdot b_1 + K_2 \cdot b_2 + \ldots + K_m \cdot b_m}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} b_i}$$

where: b_i - weighting coefficient for each control work.

The assessments for each component (C, K, I, etc.) are based on a 100-point scale in line with the provisions of the "Criteria and System for Assessing Knowledge and Skills, and Rating of Higher Education Students" of the National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute."

The final grade is finalized as the calculated value of G, rounded up to the nearest integer.

Grading scale

Total points	National	ECTS
90–100	Excellent	A
82–89	Good	B
75–81	Good	C
64–74	Satisfactory	D
60–63	Satisfactory	E
35–59	Unsatisfactory (requires additional learning)	FX
1–34	Unsatisfactory (requires repetition of the course)	F

Norms of academic integrity and course policy

Students must adhere to the Code of Ethics of Academic Relations and Integrity of NTU "KhPI": to demonstrate discipline, good manners, kindness, honesty, and responsibility. Conflict situations should be openly discussed in academic groups with a lecturer, and if it is impossible to resolve the conflict, they should be brought to the attention of the Institute's management.
Regulatory and legal documents related to the implementation of the principles of academic integrity at NTU "KhPI" are available on the website: http://blogs.kpi.kharkov.ua/v2/nv/akademichna-dobrochesnist/

Approval

Approved by   26.08.2025,   Head of the department
Olga HORODYSKA

Guarantor of the educational program
Serhii YEVSEIEV

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