

**FLFI.04.055**     **Desire**  
2016/2017 autumn full-time

<b>Faculty/Department</b>	Department of Philosophy (HVFI01)
<b>Amount of credits (1 ECTS=26 hours)</b>	3 ECTS
<b>Duration in semesters</b>	1
<b>Final assessment</b>	differentiated (A, B, C, D, E, F, not present)
<b>Syllabus credits</b>	3 ECTS
<b>Lecturers</b>	Uku Tooming (responsible)
<b>Languages of instruction</b>	English
<b>Minimum number of attendants</b>	5
<b>Study levels</b>	bachelor's studies, master's studies, doctoral studies
<b>Forms of teaching and learning and no of hours</b>	lectures: 12 seminars: 14 independent work (including e-learning): 52
<b>Web-based learning</b>	No
<b>Study period (in weeks)</b>	2-15

### Prerequisites

Recommended:	FLFI.04.014 Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind (3 ECTS, 2 CP)
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## Objectives

The purpose of the course is to introduce to the students various debates over the concept of desire in the contemporary philosophy. It will be shown how such debates are relevant for issues arising in philosophy of mind, epistemology and meta-ethics, and how our everyday discourse of wanting and desire raises philosophical puzzles.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, the student will be able to critically evaluate the arguments for and against different theories of desire. She will also understand the importance of this topic for various areas of philosophy and can apply the acquired knowledge in her own research.

## Brief description

The course consists of three parts, each of which includes a lecture and a series of seminars. In the first part of the course we will discuss various theories about the nature of desire, including the simple dispositional view, learning-based theory and good-based account. In the second part we will look at the semantics of desire ascriptions and its possible metaphysical implications. Finally, in the third part we will turn to the epistemology of desire and inquire into different views about the way in which one can know what one wants.

## Groups

Mark	Limit of attendants	Lecturers
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## Schedule

08.09.2016	lecture - Introductory lecture
15.09.2016	lecture - Lecture on the metaphysics of desire
22.09.2016	seminar - Smith, "Humean theory of motivation"
29.09.2016	seminar - Stampe, "Authority of desire"
06.10.2016	seminar - Stampe continued
13.10.2016	seminar - Brewer, "Contesting the world-making prejudice"
20.10.2016	lecture - Lecture on naturalistic theories of desire
27.10.2016	seminar - Arpaly & Schroeder, "What desires are"

03.11.2016	lecture - Lecture on the semantics of desire ascriptions
10.11.2016	lecture - Lecture on the epistemology of desire
17.11.2016	seminar - Lawlor, "Knowing what one wants"
24.11.2016	seminar - Byrne, "Knowing what I want"
01.12.2016	lecture - Summary

## **Lecture materials and course home page**

### Compulsory study materials

M. Smith, "Humean theory of motivation", *Mind*, 96, pp. 36-61.  
D. Stampe, "Authority of desire", *The Philosophical Review*, 96, pp. 335-381.  
B. Brewer, *The Retrieval of Ethics*. Oxford University Press, Ch. 1  
N. Arpaly & T. Schroeder, "What desires are", *In Praise of Desire*. Oxford University Press.  
K. Lawlor, "Knowing what one wants", *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 79, pp. 47-75  
A. Byrne, "Knowing what I want". In J. Liu and J. Perry (eds.), *Consciousness and the Self: New Essays*.

### Recommended study materials

T. Schroeder, *Three Faces of Desire*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### List of independent works and their instructions

- \* Reading the papers by every seminar
- \* Writing an essay

## **Assessment methods and criteria**

colloquium	20% - Active participation in seminars  Criteria: - being physically present (2/10) - having read the paper and being able to answer the lecturer's questions about the arguments presented there (3/10) - expressing one's own opinion on the topic and asking relevant questions (5/10)
essay	80% - Essay  In the essay (around 2500 words), the student has to critically examine a philosophical view and evaluate arguments for and against it. S/he has to show that s/he has understood the arguments and the implications that the analysed position has. Possible topics will be distributed during the course.

### Requirements to be met for final assessment

Students are expected to attend at least six seminars out of seven and to write an essay.

### To obtain final grade, the following is required

80% - Essay  
20% - Active participation in seminars

### Options for taking tests/exams at later date

To be arranged individually.