

Syllabus

Course description

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| Course title | Principles of Philosophy |
| Course code | 27041 |
| Scientific sector | M-FIL/03 |
| Degree | Bachelor in Economics and Social Sciences |
| Semester and academic year | 2nd semester 2017-18 |
| Year | 1 |
| Credits | 10 |
| Modular | No |

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| Total lecture hours | 60 |
| Total lab hours | -- |
| Total exercise hours | 30 |
| Attendance | suggested, but not required |
| Prerequisites | none |
| Course page | https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-social-sciences/ |

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| Specific educational objectives | <p>The course is part of the complementary educational activities. The subject belongs to the scientific area of Philosophy. The specific educational objectives of the course consist in the following: students should (1) get a grasp of philosophy as the grounding-institution of our humanity; (2) gain an insight into some of the turning-points in the unfolding of the philosophical tradition from its beginnings to our time; (3) recognize and experience the meaning of a fundamental philosophical position; (4) train their native philosophical intelligence. Explicit links to the other main subjects of the program (economics and politics) are drawn.</p> |
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| Lecturer | Ivo De Gennaro, office E3.04, Ivo.DeGennaro@unibz.it , tel. 0471 013481, https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/5188-ivo-de-gennaro |
| Scientific sector of the lecturer | M-FIL/03 |
| Teaching language | English |
| Office hours | Cockpit – students' zone – individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?department=26&degree=12833 |
| Lecturing assistant | Robert Simon, https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/16918-robert-simon |
| Teaching assistant | none |
| Office hours | -- |

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| List of topics covered | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The onset of thinking and metaphysics; - the structure of a metaphysical position; - the problem of truth; - the essence of man; - the relation of philosophy, science and art; - fundamental ethics and original economics; - issues in the philosophy of education; - the transition to modern philosophy; - the problem of method; - the end of philosophy. |
| Teaching format | Mixed lecture and seminar style. Students are required to prepare required readings and encouraged to participate in class discussions. Additional lectures that complement the topics treated in class will be made available both by the course leader and by a lecturing assistant. |

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| Learning outcomes | <p>The course focuses on the capacity for philosophical conceptualization and diagnosis of phenomena, particularly economic ones. Towards this end it analyses exemplary positions in the evolution of the philosophical tradition from antiquity to modern times, and touches upon topics such as the relation between being and man, the essence of truth, the foundation of the sense of beings, the architecture of economy, the relation between philosophy, science and art, etc. Through a phenomenological approach to an original philosophical ethics the course offers an outline of the fundamental traits of the philosophical institution of humanity.</p> <p><u>Knowledge and understanding:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. knowledge and understanding of selected fundamental positions of the philosophical tradition; 2. knowledge of the fundamental institutions of western humanity; 3. knowledge of the conceptual tools for a fundamental ethical diagnosis of our epoch. <p><u>Applying knowledge and understanding:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. development of the capacity for distinguishing between the operative or contingent reality and the domain of the constitution of sense; 2. development of the capacity for analysing the conditions of possibility and the implications of (economic) phenomena; 3. development of the capacity for building up and formulating a philosophical argument. <p><u>Making judgments:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. learning what a philosophical judgment consists in; 2. learning and applying the difference between making a judgment and evaluating; 3. learning and applying the difference between making a judgment and expressing an opinion. <p><u>Communication skills:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. students learn how to speak about non-contingent, pre-scientific circumstances; |
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| | <p>2. students exercise how to speak in a manner that is guided by the sense-structure of the matter at hand; 3. students are confronted with the specific requirements of written philosophical communication (essay writing).</p> <p><u>Learning skills:</u></p> <p>1. autonomous anhypothetical reasoning; 2. hermeneutic abilities exercised on philosophical texts; 3. written expression of autonomous thinking.</p> |
| Assessment | <p><u>A. Modality "attending":</u> Assessment 1 and 2: Open book written mid-term and final exam with short questions on two levels: one designed to check the knowledge and understanding objectives, the other designed to verify the capacity for applying this knowledge and this understanding in reasoning.</p> <p>Assessment 3: Take home essay on one of a series of suggested or on a freely chosen topic. This exercise requires students to exhibit the capacity for unfolding philosophical thinking in a more extended form, displaying the acquired ability to distinguish between factual-ontic description and merely formal-logical reasoning, on the one hand, and ontological interrogation on the other.</p> <p><u>B. Modality "non-attending":</u> Open book written final exam on the entire material covered during the course (= assessment 4).</p> |
| Assessment language | English |
| Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks | <p>Assessments 1 and 2 count for 35% of the final mark respectively, assessment 3 counts for the remaining 30%. Assessment 4 carries 100% of the mark.</p> <p>Students who fail assessment 1 (5 points or less out of possible 10.5 points) can choose to sit the final exam in the "non-attending" modality. Otherwise they continue in the "attending" modality.</p> <p>Relevant for assessments 1, 2, 4: clarity, coherence and exhaustiveness of answers; capacity for arguing straight to the point, without introducing elements that are alien to what is being asked.</p> <p>Relevant for assessment 3: the capacity for posing a genuinely philosophical question and for unfolding autonomous philosophical reasoning; proven effort of elaborating a clear and formally correct text.</p> |
| Required readings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extracts from classical texts and other relevant readings made available in the Reserve collection and/or handed out in class; - Lecture notes made available in the Reserve collection and/or handed out in class. |
| Supplementary readings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plato, <i>The Republic</i> (any edition) |