Freie Universität Bozen
Libera Università di Bolzano
Università Liedia de Bulsan

Syllabus
Course description

Course title	Philosophy of Science
Course code	
Scientific sector	M-FIL/03
Degree	PhD
Semester and academic year	a.y. 2017-18
Year	1
Credits	3
Modular	n/a

Total lecture hours	12
Total lab hours	n/a
Total exercise hours	n/a
Attendance	required
Prerequisites	none
Course page	n/a

Specific educational objectives	The course focuses on the acquisition of analytical abilities and the development of critical thinking with regard to basic epistemologial problems. It combines various theoretical and methodological approaches in view of fostering the students' awareness and capacity for autonomous judgement in methodological and ethical questions related to scientific research.

Lecturer	Ivo De Gennaro, office E3.04, Ivo.DeGennaro@unibz.it, tel. 0471 013481, http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/people/StaffDetails.html?personid=5188&hstf=5188
Scientific sector of the lecturer	M-FIL/03
Teaching language	English
Office hours	please refer to the lecturer's web page
Lecturing assistant	n/a
Teaching assistant	n/a
Office hours	n/a
List of topics covered	The module introduces to a fundamental reflection on scientific explanatory models. Taking as a starting point Plato's classical treatment of this issue in the "simile of the line" (*Republic*, Book VI), the following questions will be asked with respect to economic theory: What is the relation between scientific explanation and other forms of knowledge? To what extent is that knowledge (i.e. scientific explanation) theoretical? To which reality is it applied? To what kind

	of temptation is model building exposed? What role does experience play in this? What is the significance of experiments in this context? The introduction to these questions is meant, not least, to raise an awareness with regard to the scientist's responsibility and its inextricable correlation to academic freedom. Topics: - different forms of knowledge - origin and structure of hypothetical knowledge - scientific responsibility - truth and performance - evaluation of scientific research
Teaching format	The course will be taught in a seminar style. Students will be provided with readings and asked to prepare these readings in view of class discussion.

Learning outcomes	Knowledge and understanding: 1. knowledge and understanding of the scope and task of scientific research; 2. knowledge of the structure of hypothetical knowledge; 3. knowledge of basic ethical issues of scientific research. Applying knowledge and understanding: 1. development of the capacity for distinguishing between scientific performance and scientific truth; 2. development of the ability to discern between relations of cause and effect and the truth of a phenomenon; 3. development of the capacity for critically assessing the formulation and implementation of a research endeavour. Making judgments: 1. learning what a scientific 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. Learning skills: 1. autonomous reasoning; 2. reading abilities exercised on philosophical texts; 3. oral and written expression of autonomous thinking.

Assessment	Short essay based on course readings and/or class discussion.
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	The short essay should consist in an exercise of autonomous reflection on one of the course topics.

Required readings	Readings will be handed out or provided in electronic form at the beginning of the course.

Supplementary readings	Will be indicated upon request.