

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Principles of Philosophy 1
Course code	27210
Scientific sector	PHIL-03/A
Degree	Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Ethics
Semester and academic year	2nd semester 2025/26
Year	1
Credits	8
Modular	No

Total lecture hours	48
Total lab hours	--
Total exercise hours	24
Attendance	suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	none
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-politics-ethics/

Specific educational objectives	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 the beginning and the initial turning-points in the unfolding of the philosophical tradition; (3) recognize and experience the meaning of a fundamental philosophical position; (4) understand the sense and implications of a scientific stance; (5) train their native philosophical intelligence. Explicit links to the other main subjects of the program (economics and politics) are drawn.
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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	PHIL-03/A
Teaching language	English
Office hours	24 hours Cockpit – students' zone – individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13182%2C13324
Lecturing assistant	tbd

Teaching assistant	/
Office hours	/
List of topics covered	- The inception of thinking and metaphysics; - the scope of a metaphysical position; - the problem and the changing notions of truth; - the essence of man; - the structure of scientific knowledge; - the relation of philosophy, science and art; - fundamental ethics and original economics; - the transition from ancient to modern philosophy; - the problem of method.
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 and provide guidance and exercise in essay writing will be offered by a lecturing assistant.
Learning outcomes	The course focuses on the capacity for philosophical conceptualization and diagnosis of phenomena, particularly economic ones. Towards this end it analyses exemplary positions of the philosophical tradition from antiquity to the beginning of modernity, and touches upon topics such as the relation between being and man, the essence of truth, the foundation of the sense of beings, the relation between philosophy and science, 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. <u>Knowledge and understanding:</u> 1. knowledge and understanding of selected fundamental positions of the philosophical tradition; 2. knowledge of the fundamental institutions of western humanity; 3. knowledge of some conceptual tools for a fundamental ethical diagnosis of our epoch. <u>Applying knowledge and understanding:</u> 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 elaborating and formulating a philosophical argument. <u>Making judgments:</u> 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. <u>Communication skills:</u> 1. students learn how to speak about non-contingent, pre-scientific circumstances; 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). <u>Learning skills:</u> 1. autonomous anhypothetical reasoning; 2. hermeneutic abilities exercised on philosophical texts; 3. written expression of autonomous thinking.
Assessment	<u>A. Modality "attending":</u> Assessment 1: Open-book written final exam with short questions on two levels: one designed to check knowledge and understanding in terms of indicated objectives, the other designed to verify the capacity for applying this knowledge and this understanding in reasoning. Assessment 2: 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. <u>B. Modality "non-attending":</u> Closed-book written final exam on the entire material covered during the course (= assessment 3).
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	Assessment 1 counts for 70% of the final mark. Assessment 2 counts for the remaining 30%. Assessment 3 carries 100% of the mark. Relevant for assessments 1 and 3: clarity, coherence and exhaustiveness of answers; capacity for arguing straight to the point, without introducing elements that are alien to what is being asked. Relevant for assessment 2: the capacity for posing a genuinely philosophical question and for unfolding autonomous philosophical reasoning; proven effort of

	elaborating a clear and formally correct text (digital tools of generative AI and software for language correction are not allowed for this exercise). Documents containing further details on the exam and the essay will be uploaded to the Reserve collection.
Required readings	- slides prepared by the lecturer; - selected chapters from I. De Gennaro, <i>Principles of Philosophy. A Phenomenological Approach</i>, Freiburg: Karl Alber Verlag, 2019; - extracts from classical texts and other relevant readings handed out in class. All slides and readings will be made available in the Reserve collection.
Supplementary readings	- Plato, <i>The Republic</i> (any edition)