# History of Philosophy

## Prof. Lorenzo Fossati

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to offer a critical analysis of the events and the protagonists of the history of ideas that have a particular significance for the contemporary cultural debate. The reading and the analysis of philosophy classics (carried out during the lectures) will provide students with the proper tools and method for the study of the topics explained during the course.

In particular, the objectives of the course are: (1) developing knowledge of the different ways in which philosophical research can be carried out, thanks to the reading and the analysis of certain philosophy classics; (2) obtaining the method for a personal and critical evaluation of the topics addressed.

At the end of the course, students will be able to: (1) carry out training interventions also by considering the philosophical approach to the issues involved; (2) know and understand the main conceptual categories of philosophical investigation into the relationship between the vision of man and the forms of culture; (3) know and develop applied understanding skills that allow to critically address philosophical texts; (4) communicate information relating to philosophy and its history using specialised vocabulary.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Everyone’s intimate fluctuating attitude.*

Arthur Schnitzler, the famous Austrian author and dramatist, wrote: «Profundity has never illuminated a thing; clarity looks deeper into the world». These times marked by uncertainty make the experience of our limits more vivid and show us how much we need answers and solutions. But the radical question that arises is if all this is possible, that is, if not only can the truth be found but if it even makes sense to look for it, if in short it is possible to find a meaning to life or this challenge is instead just a mirage.

Starting from the reading and analysis of significant texts, the course will examine the aspiration of philosophy to act as an approach and solution to the *problem of life*, in particular by challenging religion and science, which also face the *problem of everything*: the course will then seek to investigate the tensions and convergences of the critical and constructive moments that the history of philosophy offers on these topics, analysing:

1. the need for a radical rethinking of the *divine* in Socrates and Plato;
2. the inevitable illusoriness of *religious need* in Freud;
3. the *metaphysical perspective* of a possible integration between philosophy and religion.

***READING LIST***

* S. Freud, *L’avvenire di un’illusione*, edited by S. Mistura, Einaudi, Torino 2015.
* A. Masnovo, *La filosofia verso la religione*, edited by L. Fossati, Morcelliana, Brescia 2021.
* Platone, *Eutifrone*, edited by G. Reale, La Scuola, Brescia 2013.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. Occasionally interactive seminars with researchers and experts of the field. Students can use Blackboard to access further teaching material.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral assessment.

Students will be asked to present the topics studied during the course; the exam will test (1) their knowledge of recommended philosophy classics, as well as (2) their critical interpretation of the latter.

The final mark will consider accuracy of answers and ability to reinterpret the themes explained during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/en/docenti/15223/lorenzo-fossati/didattica or on the Faculty notice board.