# Forms and Models of Philosophical Thinking

## Prof. Lorenzo Fossati

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

The course aims to offer students a critical presentation of problems and figures in the history of thought that are particularly important for the contemporary cultural debate. The reading and analysis of the philosophical classics, conducted in class, aims to provide students with the tools and methods for a personal consideration of the issues dealt with.

Specifically, the course aims are: (1) to develop awareness of the methods of philosophical research, through the reading and analysis of some classics of the history of thought; (2) acquire the tools and the method for a personal and critical evaluation of the issues 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 addressed; (2) know and understand the main conceptual categories of philosophical inquiry about the relationship between human vision and forms of culture; (3) know and develop applied understanding skills that allow a critical approach to the philosophical text; (4) communicate information relating to philosophy and its history using specialised lexicon.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*The truth about love.*

In a sort of fable invented by Plato, «after the original human nature was divided in two, each half, strongly desiring the other half that was its own, tried to be reunited with it». These times marked by uncertainty and precariousness make the experience of our limits more vivid and show us how needy we are of each other, how decisive positive and negative relationships are in our lives.

Radically questioning what binds us and what distances us means raising the question of *love*, that is, of the impulse that pushes the ego to seek its own perfection in the other than oneself, which can fully realise and define it, and to reflexively consider the opposing force that divides us and opposes one to the other. Starting from the reading and analysis of significant texts, the course will highlight the constants and variations that the history of philosophy offers on these themes, addressing:

1. the link between love and knowledge in Plato;
2. the tension between love and death in Freud;
3. the metaphysical scope of love in Pieper.

***READING LIST***

S. Freud, *Al di là del principio del piacere*, edit by A. Civita, Bruno Mondadori, Milan 1995.

J. Pieper, *Sull’amore*, Morcelliana, Brescia 2012.

Platone, *Simposio*, edit by G. Reale, Bompiani, Milan 2000.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lessons. The lesson may sometimes be held in seminar form in co-presence with scholars or specialists in various topics through the use of interactive teaching. The material available to students will be optimised with the help of the Blackboard platform available on the University website.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Learning will be verified through an oral exam.

The exam consists of a presentation of the topics covered in the course and aims to verify (1) the candidate's preparation on the classics in the programme and (2) their ability to give a critical interpretation.

The final mark will take into account the accuracy and quality of the answers, and the personal reworking of the topics addressed.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no content-related prerequisites for attending the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG> or on the Faculty notice board.