# 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***

Harmony in the storm.

«*Mai cosa fu chiarita dalla profondità di pensiero; a penetrare più profondamente il mondo è la chiarezza di pensiero*», said writer Arthur Schnitzler. These times marked by uncertainty and precariousness 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. The search for an order that embraces the internal and external storm that often seems to overwhelm us, is a topic already clearly outlined by Plato in the *Repubblica*: if man "lives in harmony with what is divine and ordered, he becomes ordered and divine, as far as a man can". But the question is whether this is enough, as Freud's reflection invites us to ask.

Starting from the reading and analysis of significant texts, we will highlight the constants and variations offered by the history of philosophy on these topics, addressing:

1. the search for a good that holds for both the individual man and the human family in Plato;
2. the inevitable tension between individual and community in Freud.

***READING LIST***

Platone, *La Repubblica*, ed. by M. Vegetti, Rizzoli, Milano 2007 (only the sections covered in class and indicated on the Blackboard page of the course).

S. Freud, *Psicologia delle masse e analisi dell’Io*, ed. by D. Tarizzo, Einaudi, Torino 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.