# Theoretical Philosophy (Second-level Degree)

## Prof. Massimo Marassi

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

The course programme intends to lay the methodological foundations for an interdisciplinary interpretation of certain places that favour where current knowledge collects and expresses the multiple forms of man's relationship with the past of memory and history.

At the end of the course, students will know the topics and reference authors of the subject covered, as well as their relevance in the interpretation of contemporary thought. They will be able to apply this knowledge to also solve problems in other philosophical contexts. They will also possess the skills to interpret a text and process problems and personal judgments on topical issues, communicating ideas and solutions clearly in order to proceed autonomously and critically with their studies.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Myth, symbol, hermeneutics.*

Phenomenology has been characterised as a privileged way of renewing ontology which, in turn, has opened up to many descriptive itineraries of the mythical tradition. This is closely connected with the reflection on the fundamental concepts of symbol and story, that is the original ways in which the conscience of the human being articulates the meaning of their own existence in their own environment. This is a particular way of approaching philosophical discourse: reasoning on the mythical experience of the beginning and the end means considering rationality starting not from the false alternative between myth and logos, but from their complementary connection, in order to reflect on the conditions of possibility of the modern subject. This evaluation of the laws that allow the articulation of any form of rationality always takes place through and within a specific model of rationality, and this resizes the historically widespread theoretical proposals, which are believed to have the best possible form of rationality. Questioning the ability of myth to build worlds by showing how they were invented, especially through the birth of a language, means placing the rise of philosophy within a communicative dimension, in a cultural, political, existential universe, in a specific time experience. Ultimately, the problem of the myth genesis is confused with that of the thought itself. This involves a necessary interpretation of the fundamental and privileged experiences of the experience. In this dimension, the function of religious myths which in every civilisation and culture concern guilt, fall, necessity, exile, free action and evil, take on particular importance. The interpretation of the myths of the beginning and of the end excludes both the possibility of an absolute rational self-transparency of philosophy and the methodical absolutisation of any vision of man as this is always an experience of finitude, which reveals itself in knowing, acting, and feeling. In fact, human dependence on what remains at the limit and at the origin of the world constitutes the human experience. In a privileged sense, religious experience is an experience of transcendence and in this sense, it questions philosophy, in its possibilities and limits and in many of its forms of expression.

***READING LIST***

H.G. Gadamer, *Verità e metodo*, Bompiani, Milano, pp. 211-437.

P. Ricoeur, *Finitudine e colpa*, Morcelliana, Brescia 2021.

L. Pareyson, *Ontologia della libertà*, Einaudi, Torino 2000, pp. 85-149.

The lecture notes are available at: *http://blackboard.unicatt.it.*

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course runs over a semester (6 ECTS corresponding to 30 hours) and will be conducted by way of frontal lectures, reading and commentary on the Reading List text, discussions and debate on specific topics, and dialogue-based lectures.

The course will be held in the second semester and the language of tuition will be Italian.

Teaching tools are used in class, with a blackboard, PC and projector for PowerPoint presentations.

Lecture notes and other teaching materials are all available at [*http://blackboard.unicatt.it*](http://blackboard.unicatt.it)

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An oral interview marked out of thirty. Assessment aims to verify students' knowledge of the texts indicated, their understanding of the concepts and problems analysed in class, their mastery of specialised vocabulary, their ability to express themselves and argue correctly and appropriately, and their critical and methodological attitude. Students possessing all the requirements listed will be awarded excellent marks.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course runs over a semester and has no specific prerequisites. However, a basic knowledge of the history of philosophy and adequate intellectual curiosity are assumed.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's Blackboard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

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.