**Analytical Ontology**

## Prof. Alessandro Giordani

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

The course will be dedicated to the analysis of the ontological arguments of God’s existence, that is, those types of arguments that proceed from premises that are assumed to be knowable a priori. The aim of the course is to present these arguments in a systematic way, fully explaining their structure, and to discuss their correctness starting from the study of the main metaphysical assumptions on which they are based.

***COURSE CONTENT***

**Part 1**: Introduction

2.1. Classification of ontological arguments

2.2. Classic arguments

2.3. Contemporary arguments.

**Part 2**: St. Anselm’s proofs of God

2.1. The structure of the arguments

2.2. The discussion of the premises

2.3. The critical assumptions from the logical point of view

**Part 3**: The proofs of Descartes and Leibniz

3.1. The structure of the arguments

3.2. The discussion of the premises: Hume and Kant

3.3. The critical assumptions from the logical point of view

**Part 4**: The contemporary resumption of the proofs

4.1. Modal logic proofs

4.2. General criticism of Kant's line

4.3. Conclusions

***READING LIST***

Course packs by the lecturer.

Introductions and insights:

Oppy, G. 1995. *Ontological arguments and belief in God*. Cambridge University Press.

Oppy, G. (ed.) 2018. *Ontological argument*. Cambridge University Press.

Dombrowski, D. 2006. *Rethinking the Ontological Argument: A Neoclassical Theistic Response*. Cambridge University Press

Szatkowski, M. (ed.), 2012. *Ontological Proofs Today*. Ontos Verlag.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom frontal lessons.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The knowledge and competences acquired can be tested by submitting a written essay or by oral examination. The exam is aimed at assessing the knowledge of the theories and main problems related to ontological arguments. In addition, the assessment will include the ability to manage the tools necessary to reconstruct the positions analysed and to evaluate the content of the arguments and assumptions of each question.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

English level: B2, sufficient for reading the texts.

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.