# Ontology and Metaphysics

## Prof. Dario Sacchi

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

The course presents and analyses the fundamental questions of the metaphysical tradition. The aim is to systematically investigate the following topics: what is metaphysics; ontology as its privileged field; the importance of this discipline, including from a more technical perspective, in the rational clarification of the meaning of life, values and the totality of reality; the modern and contemporary denial of the possibility of metaphysical knowledge; the current state of the ontological-metaphysical debate.

At the end of the course, students will have: 1) recognised that metaphysics, far from a merely dogmatic attitude that human thought has long left behind, is in fact an essential and still relevant occupation (2) acquired the conceptual tools to identify and evaluate the ontological and metaphysical premises that are inevitably present, even in the works of authors and amid schools of thought in the history of philosophy that declare themselves extraneous or even hostile to any metaphysical perspective. This awareness and conceptual endowment will allow students both to orient themselves critically in the contemporary philosophical debate and to fully grasp the formative advantages of teaching philosophy in secondary school that is based on the centrality of metaphysics.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1) Immanence or transcendence as one of the fundamental alternatives of the metaphysical thought: presentation of the essential lines of a transcendence metaphysics through the critical comparison both with the immanentism motivations and with the main positions of modern and contemporary anti-metaphysics.

2) An example of phenomenological ontology: *L’essere e il nulla* by J.-P. Sartre.

READING LIST

For point 1):

D. Sacchi, *Lineamenti di una metafisica di trascendenza*, Studium, Rome 2007.

For point 2):

J.P. Sartre, *L’essere e il nulla*. *Saggio di un’ontologia fenomenologica,* Il Saggiatore, Milano, reissues.

For both points, further information will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exams at the end of the course. Students will be most closely assessed on their presentation clarity, their appropriate use of the discipline's vocabulary, their ability to critically argue the topics addressed, including commenting on the texts examined during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students will be required knowledge of the history of philosophy, acquired on their three-year (undergraduate) degree.

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.