**History of Ancient Philosophy (Second-level Degree)**

## Prof. Maria Luisa Gatti

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

The course aims to analyse Roman philosophy in the context of ancient philosophy, with a focus on the link between philosophy, religion and power. In addition to these issues, the course will explore the figure of two “philosopher” empresses, in connection with the question of women philosophers in ancient thought.

The course will initially present the main development stages of Roman philosophy, from its origins in the Republican age to the imperial age, focusing on the link with Greek philosophy. After the presentations of the main schools that operated in Rome in the first stage, the course will analyse the most important authors and circles. The fundamental themes of Roman thought will then be highlighted, such as the centrality of ethics, of the political-rhetorical and religious perspectives, within the broader framework of ancient thought.

At the end of the course, students will achieve the following objectives: specialist knowledge of the main authors and problems of Roman philosophy in the context of ancient thought and in relation to the theme of women philosophers; insights of the theories and hermeneutics of the works, with the lexicon and the characterising argumentative strategies; understanding the phenomena of interculturality and diglossia; methodologies for reading and interpreting texts by ancient philosophers; lexical and conceptual enrichment; dialogical and argumentative skills. Students will have acquired specialised knowledge on ancient Roman and Greek philosophy especially in the Hellenistic and Imperial age, including professional competences useful in the philosophical, political, communicative, literary, theological, historical, and educational fields, and with important insights relating to interculturality and gender identity.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. *Roman philosophy: currents, authors, texts*

2. *Philosophy, religion and power: problems, thinkers, works*

3*. Philosopher-empresses: the case of Pompeya Plotina and Julia Domna in the context of research on women philosophers as a new canon of ancient philosophy*

***READING LIST***

G. Reale, *Il pensiero antico*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2001 (pp. 313-316; 341-345; 363-372: 386-397; 423-429; 445-477; 484-485).

D. babut, *La religione dei filosofi greci*,Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2022 (two chapters of your choice).

M. Bonelli (Ed.), *Filosofe, maestre, imperatrici. Per un nuovo canone della storia della filosofia antica*, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Rome 2020 (in the parts specified).

Three texts to choose from:

Cicerone, *Il sogno di Scipione,* Sellerio, Palermo 2008; or Metis Academic Press, Cagliari 2021.

Celso, *Il* *discorso vero*, Adelphi, Milan 1987.

Plotino, *Contro gli Gnostici*, in Plotino, *Enneadi*, Bompiani, Milan 2000, pp. 287-325.

Giuliano Imperatore, *Contro i Galilei*, Arché, Milan 2022.

Note: Students who have previously studied authors or texts included in the programme can agree on an alternative part with the lecturer.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes 30 hours of classroom lectures.

Students will be informed of specific conferences and seminars in class and on Blackboard.

The lessons will also be supported by further materials related to the Programme (texts, maps, data sheets; essays and PPT presentations, in particular for Roman philosophy and the empress-philosophers), which will be published on Blackboard. Interventions, reports, oral, written or digital in-depth studies (to be agreed with the lecturer as a replacement for a part of the exam) may be carried out on the various materials and themes.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment will consist of an oral exam on the textbooks indicated in the reading list.

The final mark will be the average of the marks obtained in the various parts. 1) In the first place there will be questions on Roman and ancient philosophy, and on the two chapters chosen from the volume of BABUT, *La religione dei Greci*. 2) Questions will follow on three of the textbooks listed (Cicerone, *Il sogno di Scipione*; Celso, *Il discorso vero*; Plotino, *Contro gli Gnostici*; Giuliano Imperatore, *Contro i Galilei*). Thirdly, there will be a question on the empress-philosophers, starting from Bonelli's volume and the materials published in Blackboard. Students’ activities carried out with participation in any conferences and seminars, or interventions and reports during lectures will also be appreciated.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

A basic understanding of ancient thinking may be helpful. However, issues and authors will be briefly contextualized in the tradition to which they are related.

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