**History of Ancient Metaphysics**

Prof. Nicoletta Scotti

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

The course aims to examine the different aspects of the subject matter along the entire development of ancient philosophical thought, highlighting both the specificities of the individual authors and the theoretical links between their different conceptions.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired an essential picture of the historical context relating to the positions of the individual authors or of the individual schools on this issue; moreover, they will have learnt to approach autonomously the fundamental texts that deal with them and to read them by resorting to a collection of critical literature. In terms of ability to apply the acquired knowledge, students will be able to understand the subject matter by contextualising it into the broader metaphysical field of causality and to question its relevance for the current context.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Texts by: Anaxagoras, Democritus, Plato, Aristotle, Stoics, Epicurus, Plotinus, Proclus, will be examined, grouping them around the following theoretical nuclei:

1. Plurality, spatiality, and movement.

2. Matter and individuation of form.

3. Matter and potential.

4. Matter and evil.

***READING LIST***

1. Sources

Anthology of texts in photostatic format

1. Critical literature

Anthology of articles mainly in English.

1. Lecture notes

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures alternated with seminar discussions. The Blackboard platform will be used for the lesson protocols.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The oral exam will be divided as follows: 1. Analytical explanation of one or more texts of the sources (depending on the difficulty and length); 2. 2-3 questions on the arguments of a critical literature essay of students’ choice. 3. 2-3 questions on one of the theoretical nuclei indicated in the programme. The students’ ability to group philosophers around their respective key themes will be appreciated, as well as their ability to highlight the diversity of the respective solutions in the conception of the subject matter showing command of the specific language and clarity of presentation.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Regular participation in the course is recommended. Non-attending students will be able to agree on an alternative programme with the lecturer, possibly contancting the lecturer before the start of classes.

There are no prerequisites for attending this year’s course.

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.