Theoretical Philosophy (First-level Degree)

## Prof. Massimo Marassi

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

The general course aims to present the systematic structure of classical metaphysics, analysing its core concepts and problems. The single-subject course aims to outline the conceptual and methodological development trends of the problems of metaphysics based on Kant. The course will historically and critically appraise a number of classic texts so that students can understand a range of perspectives and undertake their own independent critical studies.

At the end of the course, students will have learned about the key themes and authors in the field, and their importance for the interpretation of contemporary thought. They will be able to apply this knowledge to resolving problems, even in other philosophical contexts. They will also have acquired the skills to interpret a text, process problems and make personal judgements on topical issues, communicating their ideas and solutions clearly and adopting an independent and critical approach to their studies.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The general course aims to present a general overview of classical metaphysics, including analysis of the anthropological nature of metaphysics; philosophical tradition and the formulation of metaphysical problems; first philosophy, metaphysics, ontology; the possibility and necessity of metaphysics; the object and method of metaphysics; notions of entity, essence, existence, being; transcendental properties; the problem of foundation; the question of meaning; the experience of transcendence.

The single-subject course aims to present Kant's Copernican revolution, identifying its fundamental and central dimension in gnoseology and morals, understood as metaphysics of nature and metaphysics of customs. The notion of transcendental makes knowledge possible; it proposes itself as a method of critical metaphysics, and finally gives consistency to the subject that is responsible for understanding being and at the same time for openness to the world.

***READING LIST***

General section

V. Melchiorre, *Breviario di metafisica*, Morcelliana, Brescia 2011.

Lecture notes are available from: [*http://blackboard.unicatt.it*](http://blackboard.unicatt.it)*.*

Single-subject section

*Possibilities and limits of metaphysics*

I. Kant, *Critica della ragion pura*, varie traduzioni (G. Gentile e G. Lombardo-Radice, G. Colli, P. Chiodi, A.M. Marietti, C. Esposito).

Come presentazione generale del pensiero di Kant gli studenti potranno utilmente avvalersi del seguente testo:

A. Guerra, *Introduzione a Kant*, Laterza, Roma-Bari 2017.

Come introduzione alla prima *Critica* si consiglia lo studio della seguente opera:

S. Marcucci, *Guida alla lettura della «Critica della ragion pura» di Kant*, Laterza, Roma-Bari 2017.

For the single-subject course, lecture notes are available from: [*http://blackboard.unicatt.it*](http://blackboard.unicatt.it)*.*

***TEACHING METHOD***

This year-long course (12 ECTS credits corresponding to 60 hours) is delivered by means of frontal lectures, in which students will read and commentate the texts on the reading list and discuss and debate specific topics. Some lectures will be based on dialogue.

The course will be held in the first and second semester, and the language of instruction will be Italian.

All the texts listed below will be read and examined in seminars. Students will also produce a paper (at least one in-class exercise is mandatory):

I. Kant, *Critica della ragion pura.*

G.W.F. Hegel, *Fenomenologia dello spirito.*

F.W.J. Schelling*,* *Ricerche filosofiche sull’essenza della libertà umana.*

S. Kierkegaard, *Briciole di filosofia.*

F. Nietzsche, *La Gaia Scienza.*

M. Heidegger, *Essere e tempo.*

Students can access lecture notes and other course material at *http://blackboard.unicatt.it*

Learning tools and resources will be available in rooms with interactive whiteboards, PCs and PowerPoint projectors.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students’ papers must demonstrate their ability to make coherent arguments and knowledge of the course reading material. This paper will contribute to the final mark. There will also be an oral exam worth a maximum of 30 marks. The different modes of assessments are designed to ascertain students’ knowledge of the texts, understanding of the concepts and problems analysed in lectures, mastery of specific vocabulary, ability to express themselves and formulate accurate, appropriate arguments, and their critical skills and techniques. Students demonstrating all of the above will be awarded “Outstanding”.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

This year-long course is divided into two modules, corresponding to the first and second semesters.

For students enrolled on the Philosophy undergraduate degree course, the first year of Theoretical Philosophy must include both modules, with a single final mark.

Students enrolled on degree programmes with study plans that make it possible to enrol on the Theoretical Philosophy course for 6 ECTS credits can take either of the semester-long modules along with the relative exam syllabus.

Although there are no specific prerequisites for the course, students are expected to be intellectually curious and have a basic knowledge of the history of philosophy.

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.