History of Philosophy

## Prof. Elena Rapetti; Prof. Giuseppe D’Anna

Module 1 - *Prof. Elena Rapetti*

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

The course aims to provide students with solid and basic knowledge of the main philosophical movements of the modern age, based on the thought of the most important thinkers of the modern age.

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify the issues that shape modern philosophy - epistemological, ontological and ethical-political - in their historical contexts, and illustrate the corresponding responses of the major Modern philosophers. Moreover, students will be able to make critical comparisons between the doctrines of the various authors.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Paths of modern age, from the scientific revolution to Hegel (17th-19th centuries).

The aim of the course is to introduce the most important thinkers, historical events and concepts of the history of modern philosophy, by analysing and commentating the main texts by the authors of modernity.

***READING LIST***

As well as material provided in lectures and/or available on Blackboard platform, the following text will be used to prepare the exam:

S. Vanni Rovighi, *Storia della filosofia moderna. Dalla rivoluzione scientifica a Hegel,* La Scuola, Brescia, 1976.

On Schelling, students are advised to read Chapter 19 of M. Mori, *Storia della filosofia moderna,* Laterza, Rome-Bari, 2005, pp. 290-301.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures in class. The course will maximise the material provided to students through use of the Blackboard platform, which is accessible via the university website ([*http://blackboard.unicatt.it*)](http://blackboard.unicatt.it)).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be examined by means of an oral exam, in which they will answer questions on the contents of the texts on the reading list and the material provided in lectures and/or on the university BlackBoard platform. The oral exam is designed to 1) assess students’ ability to frame philosophical schools of thought, authors and their most important works within a historical context 2) present and discuss the theories clearly and accurately, including by introducing comparisons. It will also assess their understanding of key technical terms in the philosophical lexicon.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

For students enrolled on the year-long History of Philosophy course, Module 1 must be taken before Module 2. The final mark will be out of 30 and cover both modules.

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.

Module 2 – *Prof. Giuseppe D’Anna*

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

Is it possible to address the issue of God, the world and the self-using geometric methods? What are passions and the fear they generate? Is the self the totality of reality or can it only be part of the infinite?

With regard to these questions, the course aims to present an in-depth historical, philosophical and conceptual analysis of the thought of Spinoza.

The specific objectives of the course are:

* To provide students with a thorough historical, philosophical and theoretical overview of the thought of Spinoza.
* To compare Spinozist philosophy conceptually and lexically to that of other modern rationalist thinkers (Descartes, Leibniz and Malebranche).
* To analyse the Spinozist concepts of God-Substance, man, knowledge, love and passion in depth.

At the end of the course, students will:

* know and understand the philosophy of Leibniz in detail
* have acquired and developed the ability to use the philosophical lexicon learned during the analysis of the text in the historical and philosophical contexts of Leibiz himself and of modern rationalism
* be able to communicate and explain the philosophical positions of Leibnitz with clarity and using appropriate technical language

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will focus on analysing the thought of Spinoza with particular reference to *Ethica more geometrico demonstrata*: using the geometric method, Spinozist thought seeks to found a theory of love and a philosophical anthropology on the metaphysics of Substance. It will also explore and analyse the finite-Substance, finite-infinite relationship.

***READING LIST***

Spinoza, *Ethica,* a cura di Piero Di Vona, Scholé, Brescia 2021

L. Vinciguerra, *Spinoza,* Carocci, Roma, 2015

Sofia vanni Rovighi, *Gnoseologia*, ScHolé, Brescia 2021

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures and involve active student participation, both in terms of discussion and the potential presentation of papers for discussion during the course. Material available to students will be optimised through the use of the Blackboard platform, available via the University website [*http://blackboard.unicatt.it*)](http://blackboard.unicatt.it)).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment will be based on an oral exam.

In relation to the contents of the course, the exam is designed to verify: 1) that students have scrupulously read the books on the reading list in full; 2) students’ ability to present the books' contents and logical structure accurately and precisely; 3) students’ skill in arguing an issue and clearly expressing even the most challenging and complicated concepts; 4) students' use of suitable and proper language style and vocabulary.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites. Further information may be provided at the beginning of lectures and posted on the noticeboard in the Department 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.

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