# History of Ancient Philosophy (12 ECTS credits)

## Prof. Maria Luisa Gatti

Module I (Semester I) (6 ECTS)

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

The Course aims to help students acquire a critical understanding of the problems, stages, the most important thinkers and texts of ancient philosophy.

N.B. Please see the separate details provided on the two Modules.

To begin with, the Course (Module I) aims to provide a critical presentation of the issues, the most important movements and thinkers of ancient philosophy, based on a direct approach to the texts, introducing students to the specific philosophy lexicon and to distinguishing topics and subjects.

The single-subject part will focus on a critical analysis of a very significant work, Plato’s *Euthyphron*, paying particular attention to the lexicon, the detailed explanation of problems and argumentative strategies and the links between philosophy and theology.

At the end of the Course, students will have reached the following objectives: knowledge of the principal authors, movements and works of ancient philosophy; ability to read and critically interpret different kinds of philosophical texts; knowledge and use of ancient philosophical historiography’s tools and methods; increased proficiency in the use of the lexicon of the discipline and improved argumentative skills. Students will thereby acquire specialised knowledge of ancient philosophy and of the relevant methodologies, which are useful in order to attend second-level degree courses in the fields of philosophy, literature, history, education, arts and communication.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1) *The problems of ancient thought based on the history of the period*

2) *Plato’s Euthyphron and its interpretation*

***READING LIST***

G. Reale, *Il pensiero antico*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2001 (pp. 3-258; 293-312; 319-340; 349-355).

Platone, *Eutifrone*, Bompiani, Milan 2001.

B. Centrone, *Prima lezione di filosofia antica*, Laterza, Milan 2015 (two Chapters selected by students), or M. Migliori, A. Fermani (Eds.), *Filosofia antica. Una prospettiva multifocale*, Morcelliana, Brescia 2020 (two *Approfondimenti* selected by students, pp. 545-577).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists in 30 hours of frontal lectures.

Students will be informed about specific conferences and seminars during lectures and on the Blackboard.

Lectures will also be supported by additional material related to the Programme (texts, maps, sheets; brief essays and PPT presentations), which will be published on the Blackboard. Students may carry out oral, written and digital statements, presentations, in-depth studies on the material and topics, (to be agreed with the lecturer, as a partial replacement for the exam).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam on texts indicated on the Reading list.

The oral exam may be divided so as to include a general part (on the indicated pages of Reale’s manual, *Il pensiero antico)*, and the selected parts of Centrone’s, *Prima lezione di filosofia antica*, or of Migliori’s, Fermani (Eds.), *Filosofia antica*. The second part of the exam will consist in one question on Plato’s *Euthyphron*.

The final mark for Module I will be the average of the marks obtained in the following parts: 1) general part (with questions on Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicureans, Stoicists and Skeptics, and on the chosen Chapters of one of the listed focus texts); 2) Plato’s *Euthyphron*. Moreover, students’ participation in possible conferences and seminars or statements or presentations during lectures will be taken into account.

For students taking the annual course, in order to calculate their final average mark, the mark awarded in Module I (50%) will be added to their mark in Module II (50%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given the institutional introductory nature of the course, mainly on the subject of ancient philosophy, there are no specific prerequisites in order for students to attend the course.

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 II (advanced) (Semester II , 6 ECTS)

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

The Course (Module II) aims to go through the history of ancient thought, from a philosophical, political and religious perspective, particularly of the Imperial period, primarily regarding the most important authors of the Roman world, specifically analysing important texts.

The course will focus on two main themes. a) A presentation of the topics, authors and works which have characterised Roman philosophy, with an in-depth study of the relationship with Greek tradition, in order to highlight the distinguishing features of Roman reflection and its contribution to later thought. b) Furthermore, there will be a study of authors and texts which reveal the relationship between philosophy, religion and politics, also in relation to different philosophical and religious traditions.

At the end of the Course, students will have reached the following objectives: knowledge of the principal problems, thinkers and texts of the Imperial period and of Roman philosophy, with a specific lexicon and reasoning; knowledge of the philosophers and texts which show the links between philosophy, religion and power. Students will thereby acquire the ability to read and interpret the texts of ancient philosophers, as well as to use philosophical historiography’s state-of-the-art tools and methods; they will become more proficient in the use of the philosophy lexicon regarding Greek and Latin and the ability to explain in detail and use specific argumentative strategies. Students will thereby acquire core knowledge of the history of ancient philosophy, with a focus on Roman thought and on philosophy, theology and politics, which are useful in order to attend second-level degree courses in the fields of philosophy, literature, history, theology education and communication.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1) *Problems, movements and authors of Roman philosophy and of ancient philosophy of the Imperial period.*

2) *Philosophy, religion and power: topics, thinkers and texts*

***READING LIST***

G. Reale, *Il pensiero antico*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2001 (pp. 313-316; 369-372; 386-397; 413-422; 445-477; 484-485).

D. Babut, *La religione dei filosofi greci*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2022 (one Chapter selected by students).

Three texts from the following:

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.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists in 30 hours of frontal lectures. Students will be informed about specific conferences and seminars during lectures and on the Blackboard.

Lectures will also be supported by additional material related to the Programme (sheets, maps; brief essays and PPT presentations), which will be published on the Blackboard. Students may carry out oral, written and digital statements, presentations, in-depth studies on the material and topics, (to be agreed with the lecturer, as a partial replacement for the exam).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam on texts indicated on the Reading list. In addition to the general part, based on G. Reale’s manual, *Il pensiero antico*, with reference to the specified pages, with supplementary reading in PPT attached on BB, students will have to take: three works of their choice from the list (integrated by brief essays and PPT presentations); Babut, *La religione dei filosofi greci* (one Chapter selected by students).

The final mark for Module II will be the average of the marks obtained in the following parts: 1) general part (questions on Neostoicism, School of Alexandria, Neoplatonism; Roman philosophy movements and authors, with a special focus on Cicero and Lucretius); 2) three texts chosen by students from the four in the list; one Chapter of their choice from Babut’s volume. Moreover, students’ participation in possible seminars or the writing of papers (in replacement of part of the exam, to be agreed with the lecturer) will be taken into account.

NB. For students taking the annual course, the assessment of Module II will be worth 50% of the final mark. Hence, students of the annual course in ancient philosophy will be awarded one final mark, which will be the average of the marks obtained in the two Modules (50% Module I + 50 Module II).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given that it is the second Module of an institutional introductory course, there are no specific prerequisites in order for students to attend the course.

The lecturer’s email address is: [marialuisa.gatti@unicatt.it](about:blank)

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.