# History of contemporary philosophy

## Prof. Roberta Corvi; Prof. Antonio Lizzadri

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

The course aims to provide the main categories of the contemporary philosophy in relation to themes of undoubted interest to psychology such as philosophical anthropology, epistemology, philosophy of language and the body-mind problem. Furthermore, the course aims to provide the tools for understanding a scientific text in the context of the philosophy of mind.

*Intended learning outcomes*

*Knowledge and understanding*. At the end of the course, students will be able to reconstruct the context and the background in which psychology as a science originated; students will be able to identify different problems and perspectives in relation to the topics covered during the course.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*. At the end of the course, students will be able to understand and analyse a philosophical text, identify the problems it tackles, the solutions it puts forward, and, above all, the arguments supporting the hypotheses. Furthermore, students will be able to reconstruct the steps that lead from a problem to its theoretical solution, according to different approaches.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Following an introduction to contemporary thought, the course addresses certain philosophical topics particularly relevant to psychology: man, knowledge, language and the mind.

Unit 1. *Introduction to contemporary philosophy*

Chronological references. General features of twentieth century philosophy: Nietzsche’s role; the crisis between the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. Survey of twentieth century philosophy: the analytic philosophy and the continental philosophy.

Unit 2. *What is man?* Man as symbolic animal; man as knowing subject; man as *Dasein*; man as project.

Unit 3. What is knowledge? The phenomenological conception; the pragmatic conception; the scientific conception.

Unit 4. *What is language?* Language as expression of thought; language as picture of the world; language as “language games”; language as communication activity; language as hermeneutic horizon.

Unit 5. *What is mind?* Historical introduction; dualism and monism; The dualism of substances and dualism of properties. Contemporary monism: behaviourism, functionalism, biological naturalism, anomalous monism, epiphenomenalism, eliminativism.

Unit 6. *The human mind and artificial intelligence*.

***READING LIST***

R. Corvi, *Itinerari di filosofia contemporanea,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2014.

E. Carli – F. Grigenti (edited by), *Mente, cervello, intelligenza artificiale,* Pearson, Milano-Torino, 2019 (chapters. 1-3, 6-8).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Class lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam includes an online written test, which, if passed, will allow the student to take the supplementary oral exam on the entire programme. Both the written and oral tests must be passed; the final mark will be based on 1/3 on the written test and on 2/3 on the oral test.

– Relevance and accuracy of the information learned with regard to the fundamental aspects (pass);

– Relevance and accuracy of the information learned; ability to connect various parts of the study programme (fair);

– Relevance and accuracy of the information learned; ability to connect various parts of the study programme; arguing skills (good);

– Relevance and accuracy of the information learned; ability to connect various parts of the study programme; arguing skills; linguistic appropriateness of presentation (excellent).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students should have basic knowledge of the history of philosophy.

Further indications will be provided during the course.

Professor Roberta Corvi sees students at the PIME as notified during lectures.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to 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.