# Philosophy of Technological Experience

## Prof. Adriano Pessina

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

The course aims to provide students with sound knowledge of the main transformations in cognitive, relational and anthropological experience in reference to the introduction of information and communication technology (ICT). At the end of the course, students will be able to use conceptual instruments to assess potential as well as perceptual and sensorial conditioning related to technological contexts; identify levels of personal and group responsibility related to the use of ICT; highlight ethical and anthropological issues present within technological action; promote knowledgeable and critical use of ICT.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course aims to analyse the main philosophical issues that emerge in the contemporary era through the presence of new technological artefacts. Changes in experience as well as linguistic changes that make up the *onlife* and that, in turn, outline scenarios of freedom but also of control and manipulation. Also via the online lessons, students will explore certain cognitive and sensorial issues related to virtual ontology (what do we mean by reality? How do spatial-temporal categories mutate based on experience of the "world" and self? What is the meaning of imagining, thinking and discussing on-line? How does one reason in terms of real/false in the environment of communication and information mediated by technology?). In addition, the course explores certain ethical and anthropological issues (what is the new human "mirror"? How do social recognition procedures change? How do "digital companions" transform our ability to manage interpersonal relations?; what is the margin of decision in the compulsion to communicate? What role does emotional intelligence play in relation to ethical assessment?). The whole course aims to outline sound understanding of human experience in the era of ICT.

***READING LIST***

L. Floridi, *La quarta rivoluzione. Come l’infosfera sta trasformando il mondo*, Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milano 2014.

G. Anders, *L’uomo è antiquato. Considerazioni sull’anima nell’epoca della seconda rivoluzione industriale*, trad. it, Bollati Boringhieri, Torino 2009 (or other ed.), **Second Part** (Il mondo come fantasma e matrice).

Video lectures (available on Blackboard).

Recommended reading - but not subject to examination:

S. Turkle, *Insiemi ma soli. Perché ci aspettiamo sempre più dalla tecnologia e sempre meno dagli altr*i, trad. it. Einaudi, Torino 2019.

E. Finn, *Che cosa vogliono gli algoritmi. L’immaginazione nell’era dei computer*, trad. it. Einaudi, Torino 2018.

É. SADIN,  *Critica della ragione artificiale. Una difesa dell’umanità,* trad. it. Luiss University Press, Roma 2019.

P. Benanti, *Le macchine sapienti. Intelligenze artificiali e decisioni umane*, Marietti, Bologna 2019.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course alternates lectures in the classroom and online work (individually and in groups) according to the ESL methodology (Episodes of Situated Learning). Distance-learning students are invited to consult the video lectures and the in-depth study material; this will then be analysed and discussed during the examination. Active participation in online work is an important part of the learning process.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment is based on an integrated system which includes individual work completed by students and documented in their portfolio, and a final oral examination. The examination consists of an interview designed to ascertain the following: students’ acquisition and understanding of topics explored during lectures, students’ ability to present and argue points, students’ mastery of philosophical vocabulary and ability to find links between the various topics.

Assessment: 30 with honours: excellent, sound knowledge, excellent expressive skills, complete understanding of course topics.

30: very good, good knowledge, good expressive skills and well-articulated.

27-29: good, satisfactory knowledge, generally accurate expressive skills.

24-26: quite good knowledge but not complete and not always accurate.

21-23: generally good knowledge but superficial. Expression not always appropriate.

18-21: sufficient knowledge of main topics.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is blended, 50% in person and 50% online; lectures will alternate with video lectures and online work. Any in-depth reading material posted on Blackboard is an integral part of the examination study syllabus and is described in more detail in the course syllabus which can be found online.

Given the nature of the course, there are no prerequisites for attendance, but students are expected to be interested and intellectually curious about the philosophical topics related to the use of new digital technologies.

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.