## **Philosophy of Science**

## Prof. Alessanro Giordani

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

The course aims to analyse the contemporary debate on the relationship between truth and knowability. The classic definition of truth as a correspondence between intellect and *res*, that is, between what is conceived as actual and what is actual, supposes a close relationship between truth and knowledge. In particular, this concept seems to imply the knowability of every true proposition. The aim of this course is twofold: on the one hand, it intends to critically analyse the relationship between truth and knowledge in light of the *paradox of knowability* - one of the most discussed paradoxes in the context of contemporary epistemology - on the basis of which the intuitive thesis that every true proposition is *knowable* as such implies the hardly shareable conclusion that every true proposition is *known* as such; on the other hand, we intend to consider the extent of the paradox with respect to the current debate between ontological anti-realism and realism, that is, between the positions in which it is assumed that the ontological dimension, the actual world, is independent of / dependent on the epistemic dimension, the world as conceived or constructed by the subject.

***COURSE CONTENT***

**Part 1**: Introduction

1.1. The classic concept of truth

1.2. Correspondence and truth

1.3. The classic concept of knowledge

1.4. Correspondence and knowability

**Part 2**: The knowability of every true proposition

2.1. The relationship between truth and knowability in Aristotle

2.2. The relationship between truth and knowability in Thomas

2.3. The relationship between truth and knowability in Husserl

2.4. The controversy between realism and anti-realism

**Part 3**: The paradox of knowability

3.1. The presentation of the paradox

3.2. The realist interpretation of the paradox

3.3. The anti-realist interpretation of the paradox

3.4. Conclusion on the controversy between realism and anti-realism

***READING LIST***

Course packs by the lecturer.

Introductions and insights:

Salerno, J., 2009. *New Essays on the Knowability Paradox*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tennant, N., 1997. *The Taming of the True*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Williamson, T., 2000. *Knowledge and its Limits*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Further reading list information will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lessons in the classroom.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment of students’ knowledge and competences consists of an oral exam. The exam is aimed at assessing the knowledge of the theses supported in the debate in relation to the concepts of truth, knowledge, knowability of the assumptions underlying the construction of the topics covered. The exam questions will follow the structure of the course, focusing on the historical part and the theoretical part of the debate. Furthermore, the exam will assess the students’ ability to analyse the content of a theory from the point of view of its ontology. Finally, the students’ critical ability will be assessed in the analysis of the arguments and in the discussion of the assumptions of each topic.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

English level: B2, sufficient for reading the texts.

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.