**Analytical Ontology**

## Prof. Alessandro Giordani

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

During the last 30 years, contemporary debate on the notion of substance, one of the fundamental topics of classical metaphysics, has developed in an extremely interesting way, mainly due to the new conceptual tools used to address this topic. The aim of the course is to methodically present an overview of traditional and present metaphysics and the links between contemporary and classical conceptions of the crucial topics that are discussed, specifically: substance as a structured whole, substance as a substrate of properties and persistent substrate of becoming, substance as the foundation of being.

***COURSE CONTENT***

**Introduction. The concept of substance**

1. The fundamentality of substance.

2. Substance as principle of becoming.

3. Substance as principle of being in general.

4. Substance as principle of existence, identity, identification.

**Part I: historical perspective.**

I.1. Definition of substance in Aristotle.

I.2. Definition of substance in Locke.

I.3. Definition of substance in Hume.

I.4. Definition of substance in Kant.

**Part II: theoretical perspective.**

II.1. The conceptual framework.

II.2. Theories with costituents.

II.3. Mereological theories with structured wholes.

II.4. Theories of becoming: Endurantism, Perdurantism, stages.

***READING LIST***

Lecturer’s handouts.

Introduction and further in-depth reading:

D. Armstrong, *Che cos'è la metafisica*. Carocci, 2016.

M. Carrara – C. De Florio – G. Lando – V. Morato, 2021. *Introduzione alla metafisica*, Il Mulino.

Koons, R. & Pickavance, T., 2015, *Metaphysics. The Fundamentals*. Blackwell.

Koslicki, K., 2018, *Form, Matter, Substance*. Oxford University Press.

Loux, M. & Crisp, T. 2017. *Metaphysics. A Contemporary Introduction*. Routledge.

Lowe, J., 2009. *La possibilità della metafisica*. Rubettino.

Ney, A., 2014. T. *Metaphysics. An Introduction*. Routledge.

Sattig, T., 2021. *Material Objects*. Cambridge University Press.

Tallant, J., 2017. *Metaphysics. An Introduction*. Bloomsbury.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures in the classroom.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Two alternative methods are used to assess the knowledge and skills acquired by students; an oral exam or the presentation of a written essay. The exam is designed to assess students’ knowledge of the main topics and issues of the metaphysics of substance in the contemporary world. The questions that will be asked during the exam will follow the course structure, focusing on the reading specified for each part of the course. Moreover, students will be assessed on the basis of their ability to manage the tools required to recreate the analysed positions and to evaluate the content of the arguments and assumptions inherent to each argumentation.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites in order for students to attend the course. For a basic introduction to metaphysics, students may refer to S. Vanni Rovighi, *Elementi di Filosofia,* Vol. 3 La Scuola, 1967.

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.