**History of Ancient Philosophy (Second-level Degree)**

## Prof.ssa Elisabetta Cattanei

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

The course is designed to enable students to acquire a more in-depth knowledge of the history of Western philosophy during the Centuries ranging from 7th-6th BC to 6th AD. In order to reconstruct this phase of the history of thought, there will be a special focus on sources, offering a thematic pathway through commented reading of some works (or parts of works) of ancient philosophers. Specifically, the course has the following aims and expects students to have acquired:

1) *Knowledge and ability to understand*. Deeper knowledge of important periods and figures of the history of Western ancient philosophy (7th BC-6th AD); ability to recognise the lexicon, argumentative structures and the historical and cultural context of the main philosophy texts of ancient Greece and Rome.

2) *Ability to apply knowledge and understanding.* Ability to read and explain ancient philosophy texts, from the perspective of historical reconstruction and of the philosophical discussion of problems.

3) *Autonomy of judgement*. Acquisition of critical awareness, through the dialogue with written texts and the cultures of the past.

4) *Communication skills*. Extension of the philosophical lexicon, development of abstract thinking skills and of the ability to choose argumentation strategies, depending on the context.

5) *Ability to learn*. Acquisition of the basic skills in the framework of ancient philosophy, that are useful for professional opportunities, within the scope of second level degrees in the fields of philosophy, history and literature.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The ontology of number in ancient Greece and Rome: Plotinus “reader” of Plato and Aristotle.

Beginning from the discussion presented by Plotinus’ *Enneads*, VI 6, the course retraces the references to Plato and Aristotle, with a special focus on the problem of whether or not numbers are ontologically dependent on thought, both human and divine.

***READING LIST***

1) *Primary literature*

Plotino, *Enneadi*, Translation by R. Radice, Introductory essay, preface and notes edited by G. Reale, Mondadori, Milan 2002 (*Enneade*VI 6 [34]).

Aristotele, *La* *Metafisica*, edited by G. Reale, Milan, Bompiani 2000, with parallel text in Greek (Book XIII, 1-3; 6-8)*.*

Platone, *Filebo*, edited by M. Migliori, Bompiani, Milan 2006.

2) *Secondary literature*

E. Cattanei, *Numero*, Unicopli, Milan («Questioni di Filosofia antica»), being printed.

3) *Reference texts*

a. Primary literature

Platone, *Timeo*, edited by G. Reale, Bompiani, Milan 2000 (several reprints).

Platone, *Repubblica*, edited by M. Vegetti, BUR, Milan 2007 (books VI and VII).

Aristotele, *Categorie*, edited by M. Bernardini, in: Aristotele, *Organon*, edited by M. Migliori, Bompiani, Milan 2016.

Euclide, *Elementi*, edited by A. Frajese, UTET, Turin 1977 (book VII).

Ps. Alessandro di Afodisia, *Commento al libro* XIII, edited by E. Cattanei, in: Alessandro di Afodisia, *Commento alla “Metafisica” di Aristotele*, edited by G. Movia, Bompiani, Milan 2007.

Proclo, *Commento al Primo libro degli “Elementi” di Euclide*, edited by M. Timpanaro-Cardini, Giardini, Pisa 1978.

b. Secondary literature

E. Cattanei, *Mathematics and its Reform in Plato’s Time*, in: M. Vegetti, F. Ferrari, T. Lynch (eds.), *The Painter of Constitutions. Selected Essays on Plato’s* Republic, Academia Verlag, Sankt Augustin 2013, pp. 215-243 (the PDF will be made available to students).

Ead., *Enti matematici e metafisica. Platone, l’Accademia e Aristotele a confronto*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 1996 (Chaps. 2-3) (the PDF will be made available to students).

Ead., *Gli enti matematici «per astrazione» secondo Alessandro di Afrodisia e lo pseudo-Alessandro*, in: G. Movia (edited by), *Alessandro di Afrodisia e la “Metafisica” di Aristotele*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2003, pp. 255-276 (the PDF will be made available to students).

Ead., *Aristotele, Categorie, 6, 4b20-5b10. Le quantità in senso proprio,* in: M. Bonelli-F. Guadalupe Masi, *Studi sulle “Categorie” di Aristotele*, Adolf M. Hakkert Editore, Amsterdam 2011, pp. 135-156 (the PDF will be made available to students).

Svetla Slaveva-Griffin, *Plotinus on Number*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2009.

G. Reale, *Il pensiero antico*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2001 (for the contextualisation of reference authors).

P. Zellini, *Numero e Logos*, Adelphi, Milan 2010.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes 30 hours of frontal lectures in the classroom. Possible seminar activities, also with active participation by students, will be programmed at the beginning of the Course. There will also be meetings and conferences with sector specialists.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an oral reading test and in a commentary on the primary literature texts specified in the Reading List. Students have the option to replace one of the three parts of the programme with a presentation of a written paper, structured like a brief Chapter of a degree thesis, on a topic contained in the programme, to be agreed upon with the lecturer.

***NOTES AND prerequisitES***

In order to attend the course, students are requested to have prior knowledge of the fundamentals of the history of ancient philosophy. Students are advised to make sure that they are able to recognised the ancient Greek alphabet.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG.